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NO. 532

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Zane Grey's The Rustlers

A PICTURIZED EDITION OF "RAIDERS OF SPANISH PEAKS"

"THE RUSTLERS"

LARAMIE NELSON rides north out of Texas into a blazing gunfight with a vicious gang of cattle rustlers.

LENTA LINDSAY, young and very rash, keeps the ranch in a turmoil.

Laramie's partner, **LONESOME MULHALL**, has many faults, but his loyalty to Laramie is undeniable.

Big, burly **LUKE ARLIDGE** hates Laramie Nelson from the first sight.

"**TRACKS WILLIAMS** could trail a fly across a plaster ceiling!"

LESTER ALLEN is the crooked schemer who sells Mr. Lindsay the ranch.

MR. LINDSAY is the Easterner who buys the Spanish Peaks Ranch, sight unseen.

CHESS GAINES works for Mr. Lindsay but takes secret orders from the rustlers.

HARRIET LINDSAY tells Laramie there can't be any fighting on the ranch—no matter what happens.

PRICE was his only name. He escapes death only by becoming a double traitor.

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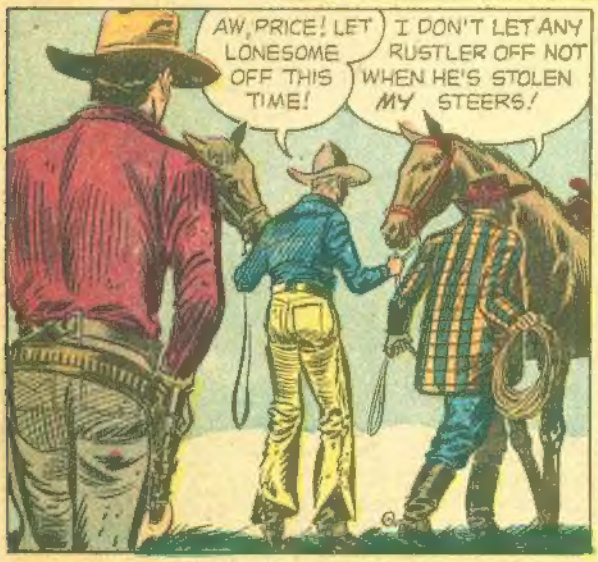
Zane Grey's
The Rustlers
SHOW ME A RIDER WHO NEVER TOOK A HEAD OF STOCK! YOU CAN'T HANG ME, PRICE!
SHUT UP!
RIDING NORTH FROM TEXAS ON HIS HORSE, WINGFOOT, LARAMIE NELSON FINDS A STRANGER IN TROUBLE...

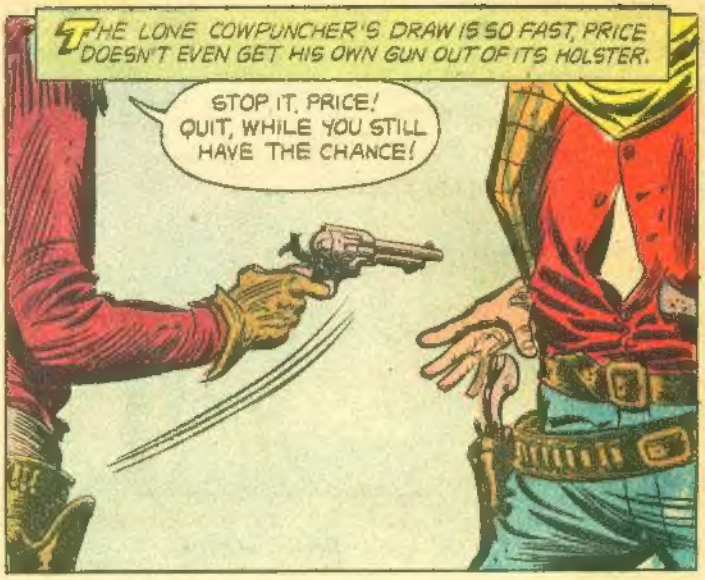

AW, PRICE! LET LONESOME OFF THIS TIME!
I DON'T LET ANY RUSTLER OFF NOT WHEN HE'S STOLEN MY STEERS!

BUT I ONLY TOOK ENOUGH BEEF TO COVER THE WAGES YOU OWE ME!
IT'S TOO LATE NOW, LONESOME! HERE GOES!

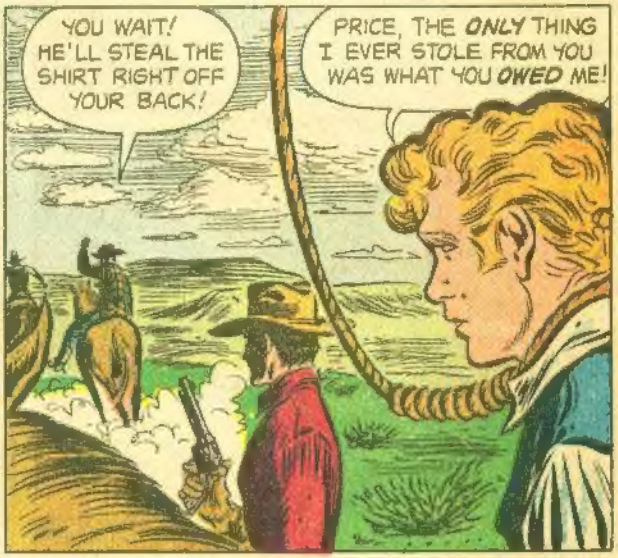
HOLD ON THERE!
WHAT? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

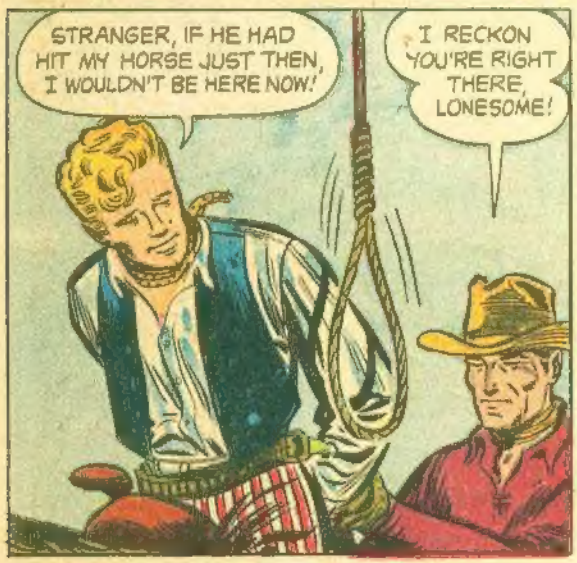
MY CAMP IS A LITTLE WAY DOWN THE ARROYO. I SAW YOUR HORSES AND WONDERED WHAT WAS GOING ON.
GO ON BACK! MIXING IN THIS ISN'T HEALTHY!

I'VE BEEN IN UNHEALTHY SPOTS BEFORE. YOU'RE NOT TO HANG HIM!
I WARNED YOU, STRANGER! NOW I'LL--

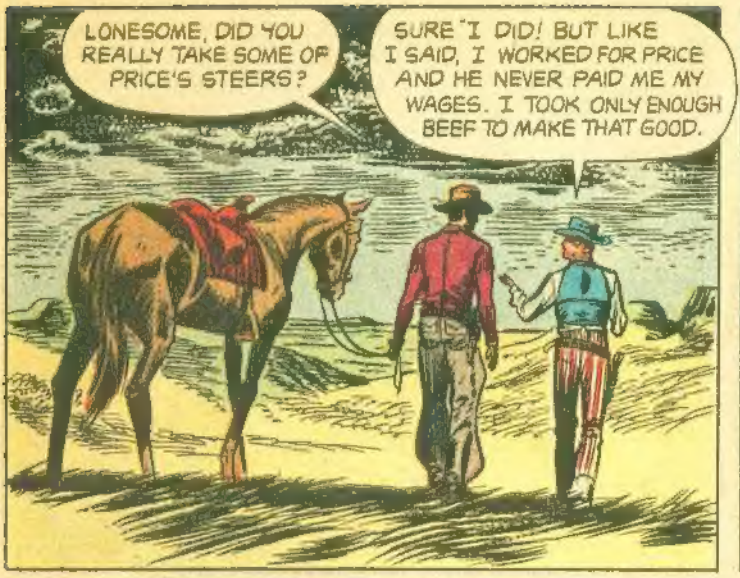

THE LONE COWPUNCHER'S DRAW IS SO FAST, PRICE DOESN'T EVEN GET HIS OWN GUN OUT OF ITS HOLSTER.
STOP IT, PRICE! QUIT, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE CHANCE!

NOW, MOUNT UP AND GET GOING! YOUR BLUFF DIDN'T WORK!
ALL RIGHT--BUT YOU'LL SEE HE ISN'T WORTH FIGHTING OVER!

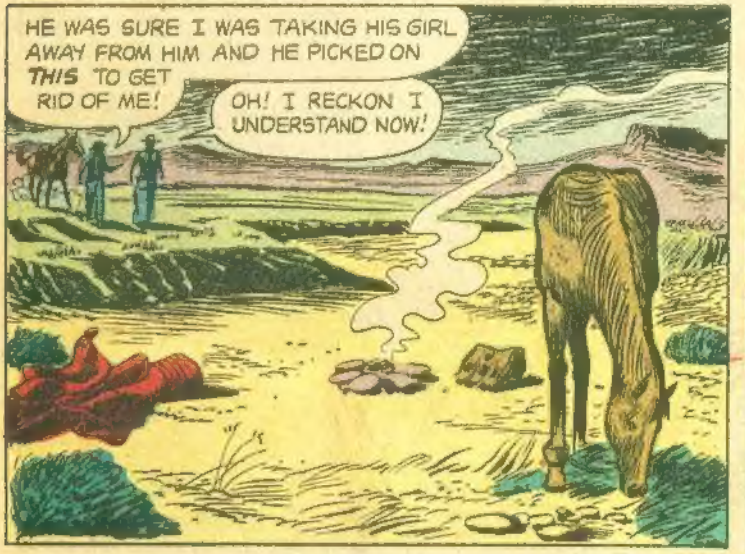

YOU WAIT! HE'LL STEAL THE SHIRT RIGHT OFF YOUR BACK!
PRICE, THE ONLY THING I EVER STOLE FROM YOU WAS WHAT YOU OWED ME!


STRANGER, IF HE HAD HIT MY HORSE JUST THEN, I WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW!
I RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT THERE, LONESOME!

MY NAME'S LONESOME MULHALL. THEY CALL ME LONESOME BECAUSE I TRAVEL MOSTLY ALONE.
I'M LARAMIE NELSON. COME ON-- LET'S GET GOING!


LONESOME, DID YOU REALLY TAKE SOME OF PRICE'S STEERS?
SURE I DID! BUT LIKE I SAID, I WORKED FOR PRICE AND HE NEVER PAID ME MY WAGES. I TOOK ONLY ENOUGH BEEF TO MAKE THAT GOOD.

AND THAT WASN'T THE REAL REASON WHY PRICE TRIED TO HANG ME.
NO? WHAT WAS IT THEN?


HE WAS SURE I WAS TAKING HIS GIRL AWAY FROM HIM AND HE PICKED ON THIS TO GET RID OF ME!
OH! I RECKON I UNDERSTAND NOW!

LARAMIE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
JUST DRIFTING NORTH, LONESOME ...LOOKING FOR WORK!

I'M NOT MUCH GOOD, LARAMIE-- BUT TAKE ME WITH YOU ANYWAY, WILL YOU? I CAN'T STAY HERE!
WHATEVER YOU SAY! WINGFOOT AND I ALWAYS LIKE TO HAVE COMPANY ON THE TRAIL.

YOU MEAN IT? LARAMIE, I WON'T DO WHAT PRICE SAID! I WON'T STEAL ANOTHER THING AS LONG AS I LIVE!
OKAY, LONESOME. I GUESS WE HAVE A PARTNERSHIP!

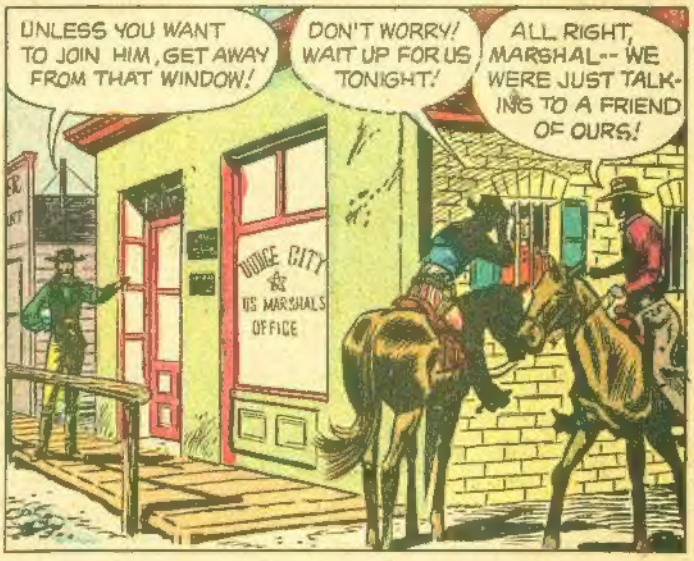
A FIRM FRIENDSHIP SPRINGS UP BETWEEN THE TWO MEN. ONE MORNING, THEY RIDE INTO DODGE CITY, KANSAS...
MAYBE WE CAN JOIN SOME CATTLE OUTFIT HERE IN KANSAS, LARAMIE!
I SURE HOPE SO. WE NEED WORK BAD!
HOTEL
WELLS FARGO CO
EXPRESS

LONESOME! LONESOME MULHALL! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
TRACK WILLIAMS!
THE GEM SALOON

WHO'S YOUR PARTNER?
THIS IS LARAMIE NELSON-- BEST FRIEND I HAVE, OUTSIDE OF YOU! HE SAVED MY LIFE, TRACKS!

GLAD TO MEET YOU, TRACKS!
WHY ARE YOU IN THERE, TRACKS? ARE YOU IN TROUBLE?

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. THE TOWN MARSHAL ROUNDED UP EVERY STRANGER IN TOWN! HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMEONE AND ISN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES ON HIS GETTING AWAY! GET ME OUT OF HERE, WILL YOU?


UNLESS YOU WANT TO JOIN HIM, GET AWAY FROM THAT WINDOW!
DON'T WORRY! WAIT UP FOR US TONIGHT!
ALL RIGHT, MARSHAL-- WE WERE JUST TALKING TO A FRIEND OF OURS!
DODGE CITY
US MARSHALS OFFICE

LET'S GET TO WORK--NO ONE'S SEEN US SO FAR!
I HOPE THEY DIDN'T MOVE TRACKS TO ANOTHER CELL.

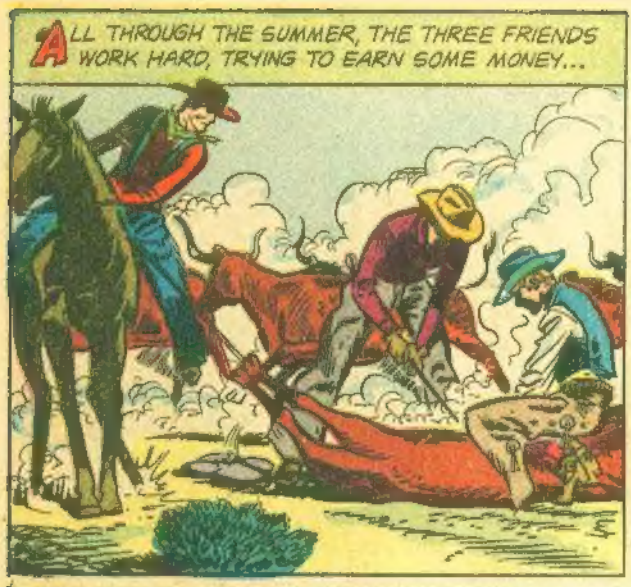
YOU CAME BACK! BOY, WILL I BE GLAD TO GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU AREN'T OUT YET! GET READY TO SQUEEZE THROUGH THE HOLE--WE HAVEN'T TIME TO MAKE IT BIG!
THUD!

LONESOME DRIVES THE PICKAXE INTO THE WALL. TIME AFTER TIME...
ANY CHANCE OF THE MARSHAL COMING AROUND?
I DOUBT IT. HE LIVES AT HOME AND HE SLEEPS PRETTY GOOD, THEY SAY!

LET'S MOUNT UP, QUICK!
BUT MAKE IT QUIET! SEE THAT YOUR HORSES DON'T WHINNY!

COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
SURE, LARAMIE! THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO ALL WEEK!

THE THREE RIDERS LEAVE DODGE CITY AS FAST AS THEIR HORSES CAN TRAVEL...


ALL THROUGH THE SUMMER, THE THREE FRIENDS WORK HARD, TRYING TO EARN SOME MONEY...

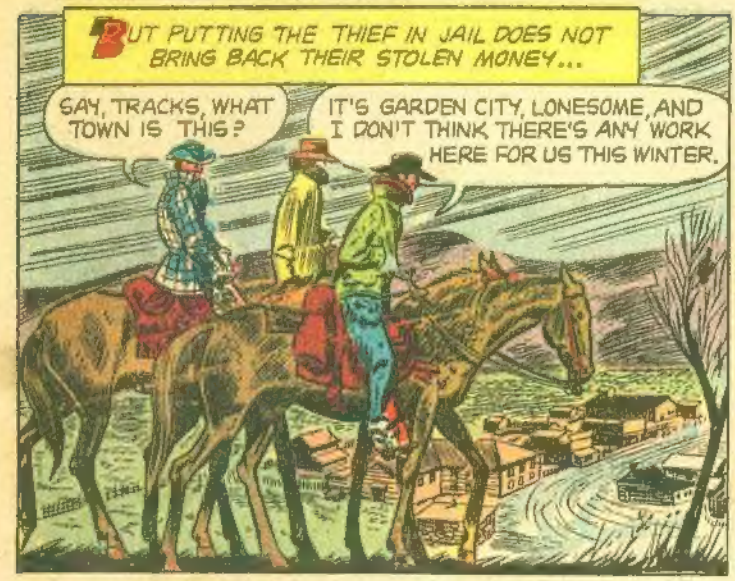
BUT ONE MORNING, AFTER SHELTERING A STRANGER FOR THE NIGHT, THEY WAKE UP AND FIND HIM GONE!
HE-- HE STOLE OUR MONEY! RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER MY BEDROLL!
LET'S GO AFTER HIM!

IT TAKES MANY WEEKS, BUT FINALLY THEY FIND THE THIEF IN A SMALL KANSAS TOWN...
THERE HE IS!
COME ON! LET'S GET HIM!
CIGARS AND BEST BEER

WHERE'S OUR MONEY?
DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT! I HAVEN'T GOT YOUR MONEY!
CLICK!

WHERE IS IT, THEN?
IT'S SPENT! SO HELP ME-- I HAVEN'T A DIME LEFT!

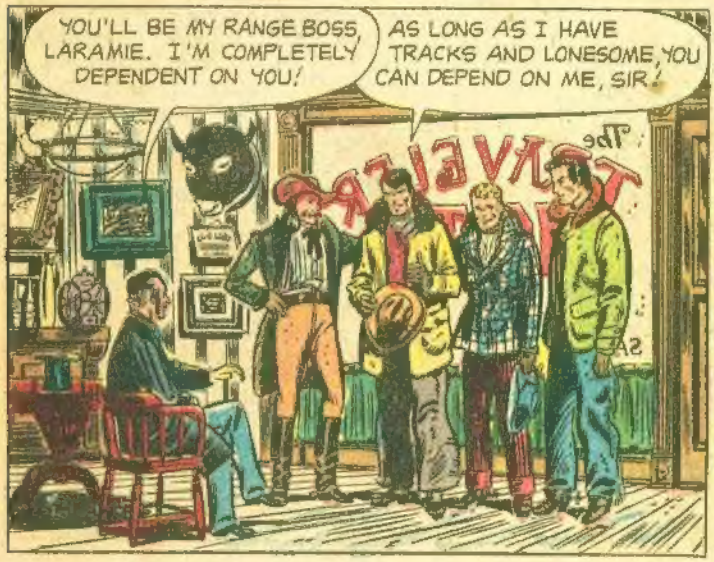
WHY, YOU LOW-DOWN THIEF! I'M GOING TO FIX YOU GOOD!
NO, LONESOME! THERE'S A SHERIFF IN THIS TOWN. WE'RE GOING TO DO THE RIGHT THING!
HOTEL


BUT PUTTING THE THIEF IN JAIL DOES NOT BRING BACK THEIR STOLEN MONEY...
SAY, TRACKS, WHAT TOWN IS THIS?
IT'S GARDEN CITY, LONESOME, AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY WORK HERE FOR US THIS WINTER.

LARAMIE! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
BUFFALO JONES! IT'S BEEN A DOG'S AGE SINCE I SAW YOU LAST!

THEIR LUCK CHANGES--BUFFALO JONES INTRODUCES THEM TO A MAN WHO WANTS TO HIRE COWBOYS...
...AND THESE THREE RIDERS ARE THE BEST MEN I KNOW TO TAKE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO THE RANCH, MR. LINDSAY!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT, BUFFALO, OLD FRIEND. I'LL HIRE THEM ON YOUR RECOMMENDATION!

GENTLEMEN, I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING... I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT CATTLE RANCHING. I CAME WEST AND BOUGHT SPANISH PEAKS BECAUSE OF MY POOR HEALTH!
WE UNDERSTAND, MR. LINDSAY!

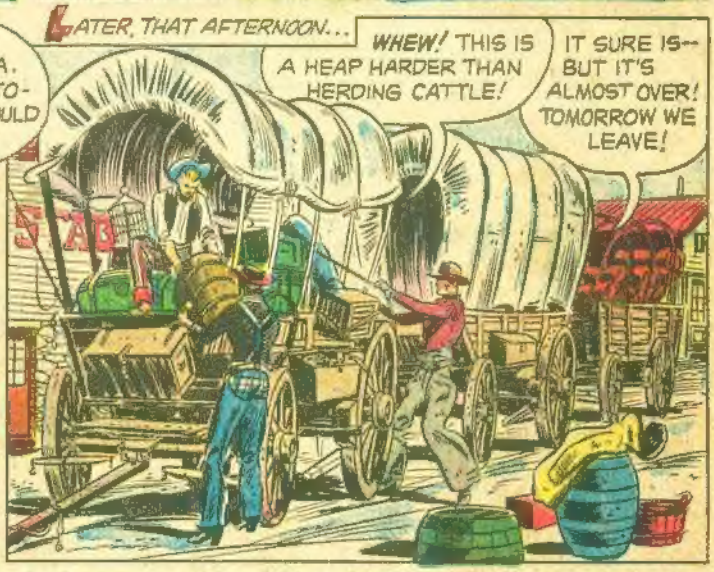

YOU'LL BE MY RANGE BOSS, LARAMIE. I'M COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON YOU!
AS LONG AS I HAVE TRACKS AND LONESOME, YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME, SIR!

GOOD! WE LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU CAN GET OUR WAGONS LOADED!
THE SOONER THE BETTER! SHALL WE SHAKE ON IT?

BY THE WAY, MY TWO DAUGHTERS, HARRIET AND LENTA, AND MY WIFE WILL BE TRAVELING WITH US!
DON'T WORRY, MR. LINDSAY-- THEY'RE SAFE WITH US!
SALOO

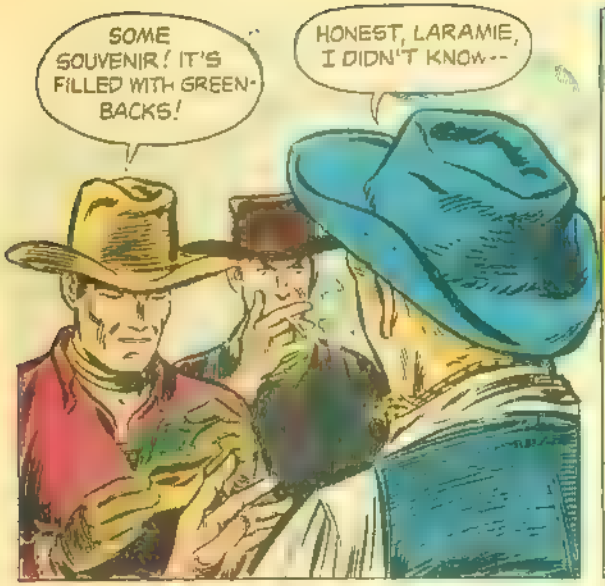
NEXT DAY...
I'M SURE PLEASED TO KNOW YOU, MISS HARRIET. I MET YOUR FATHER ONLY LAST NIGHT!
YES, I KNOW. THIS IS MY SISTER, LENTA, MR. NELSON!

I SURE AM PLEASED TO MEET A REAL WESTERN COWBOY! MAY I CALL YOU LARAMIE-- LIKE YOUR FRIENDS DO?
WHY SURE YOU CAN, MISS LENTA. WE'LL WORK TOGETHER. WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS!

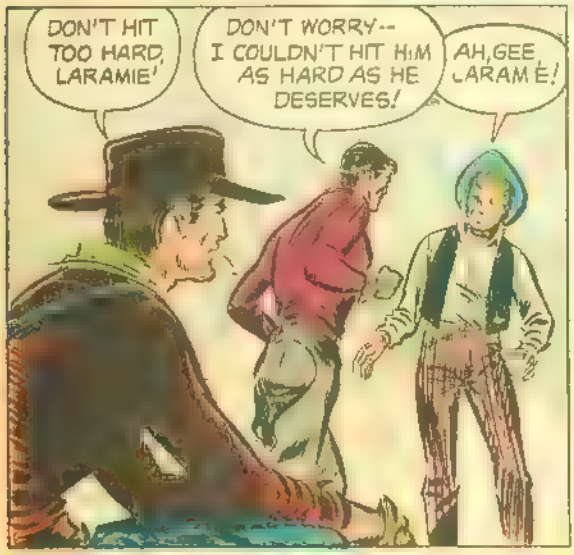

LATER, THAT AFTERNOON...
WHEW! THIS IS A HEAP HARDER THAN HERDING CATTLE!
IT SURE IS-- BUT IT'S ALMOST OVER! TOMORROW WE LEAVE!

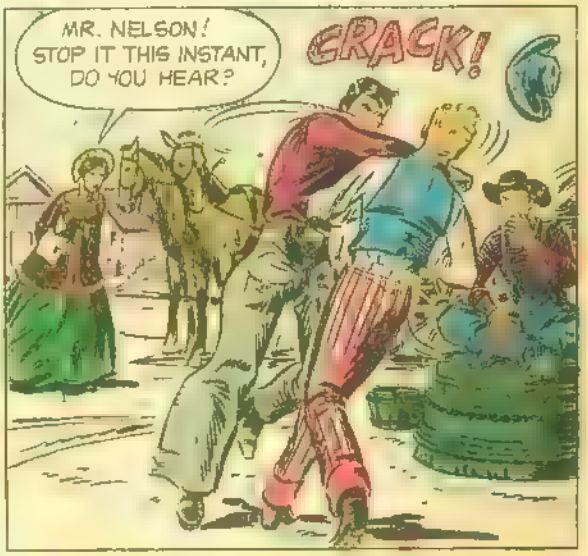
LONESOME! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE?
IT'S SOMETHING MISS LENTA DROPPED! I PICKED IT UP FOR A SOUVENIR!

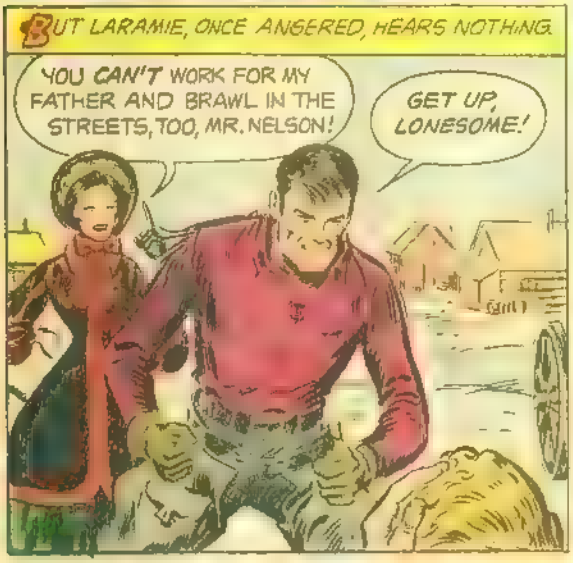
GIVE IT HERE! LONESOME, YOU PROMISED ME YOU'D NEVER TAKE ANYTHING AGAIN!
HONEST, I COULDN'T HELP IT, LARAMIE! I JUST WANTED SOMETHING OF HERS!


SOME SOUVENIR! IT'S FILLED WITH GREEN-BACKS!
HONEST, LARAMIE, I DIDN'T KNOW--

YOU PROMISED NOT TO TAKE ANYTHING AGAIN-- AND NOW I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON!


DON'T HIT TOO HARD, LARAMIE!
DON'T WORRY-- I COULDN'T HIT HIM AS HARD AS HE DESERVES!
AH, GEE, LARAMIE!


MR. NELSON! STOP IT THIS INSTANT, DO YOU HEAR?
CRACK!

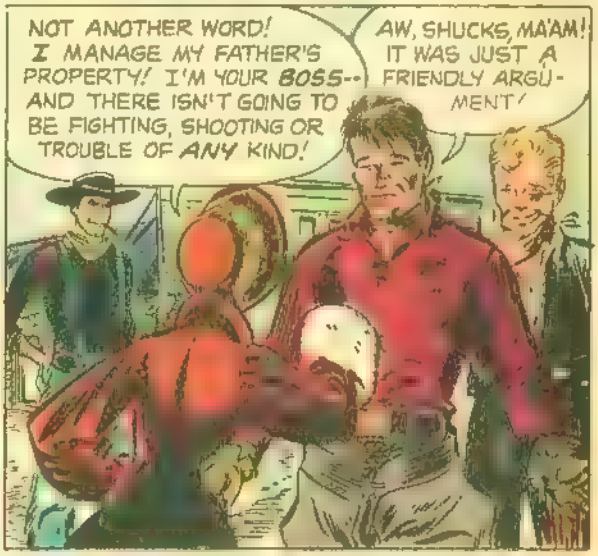

BUT LARAMIE, ONCE ANGERED, HEARS NOTHING.
YOU CAN'T WORK FOR MY FATHER AND BRAWL IN THE STREETS, TOO, MR. NELSON!
GET UP, LONESOME!

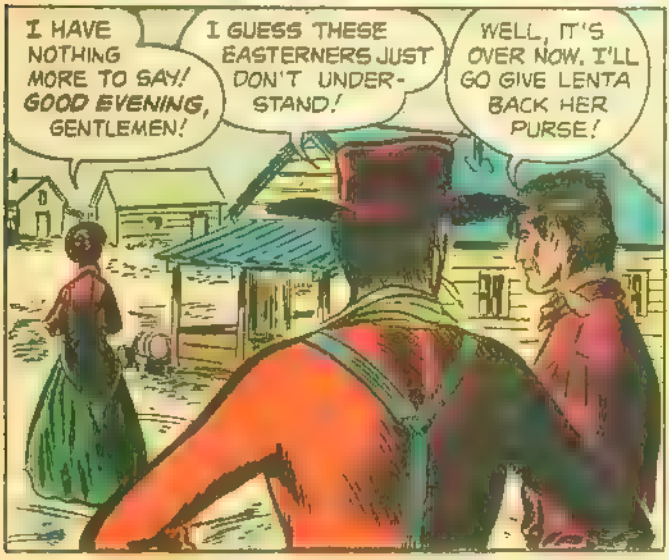
IN SPITE OF MISS HARRIET, THE FIGHT GOES ON TO ITS BITTER END...

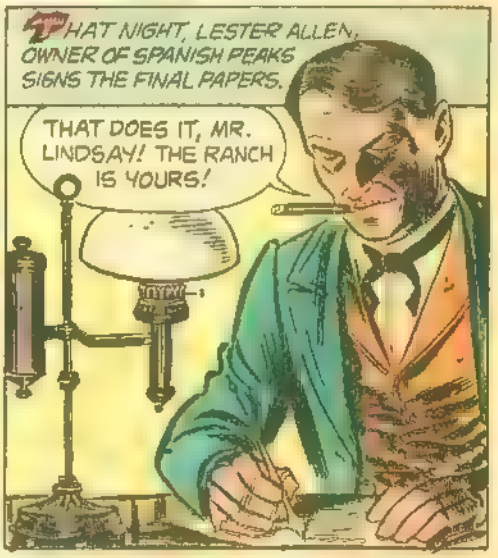
DON'T WORRY, MISS HARRIET-- IT'S JUST A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING!!

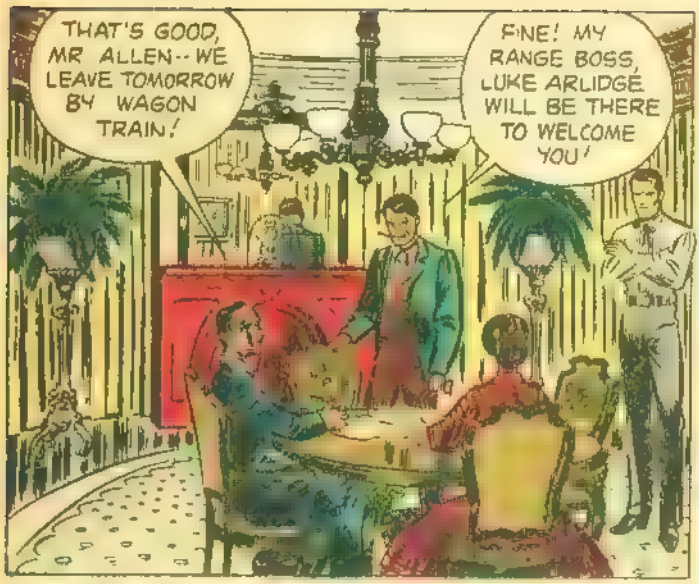
ALL RIGHT--I'VE HAD ENOUGH! YOU'RE RIGHT, LARAMIE! I'LL NEVER BE A FOOL AGAIN! THANKS FOR KNOCKING SOME SENSE INTO ME!
SEE WHAT I MEAN? NO HARD FEELING BETWEEN THEM NOW!

MR. NELSON--I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE NO FIGHTING ON MY FATHER'S RANCH! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
BUT... BUT, I--

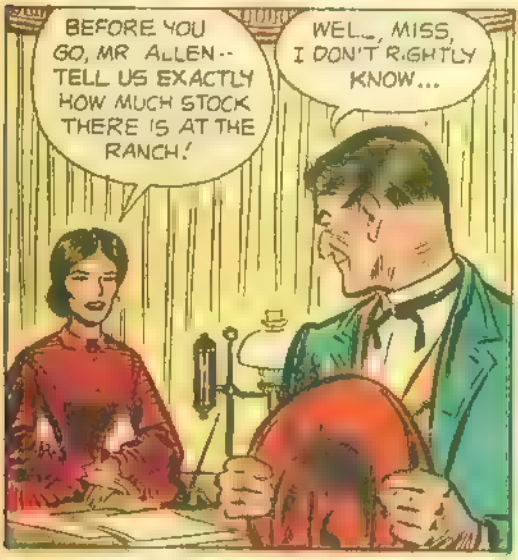

NOT ANOTHER WORD! I MANAGE MY FATHER'S PROPERTY! I'M YOUR BOSS-- AND THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE FIGHTING, SHOOTING OR TROUBLE OF ANY KIND!
AW, SHUCKS, MA'AM! IT WAS JUST A FRIENDLY ARGUMENT!

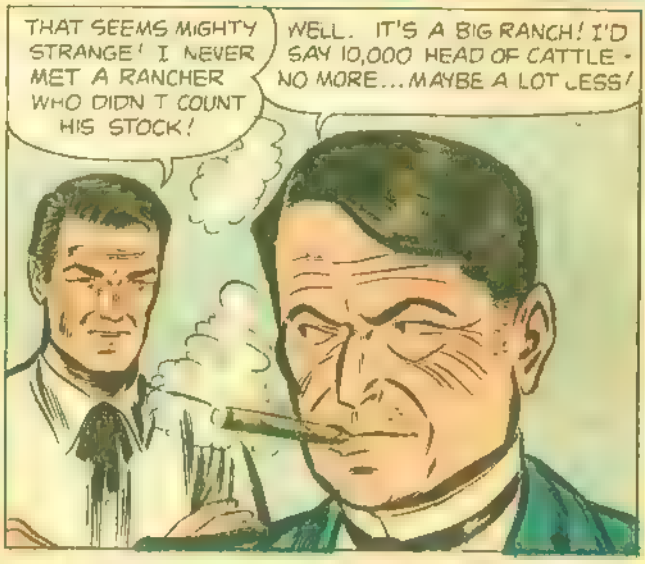

I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY! GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!
I GUESS THESE EASTERNERS JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WELL, IT'S OVER NOW. I'LL GO GIVE LENTA BACK HER PURSE!

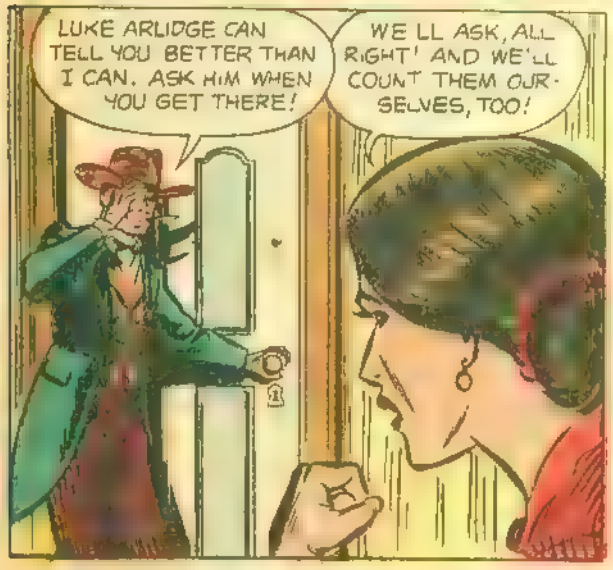

THAT NIGHT, LESTER ALLEN, OWNER OF SPANISH PEAKS SIGNS THE FINAL PAPERS.
THAT DOES IT, MR. LINDSAY! THE RANCH IS YOURS!

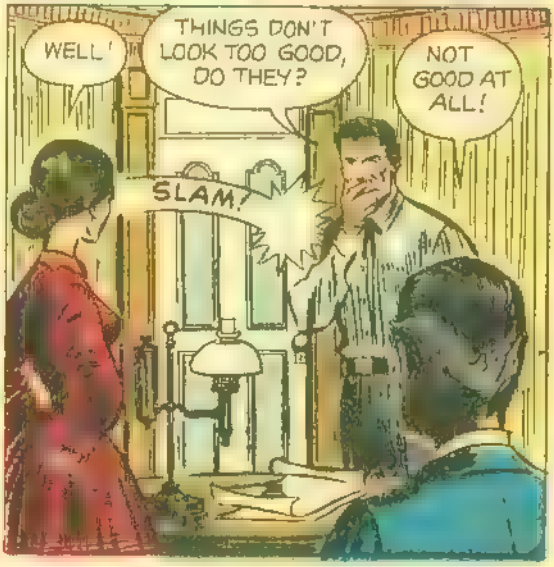

THAT'S GOOD, MR ALLEN--WE LEAVE TOMORROW BY WAGON TRAIN!
FINE! MY RANGE BOSS, LUKE ARLIDGE WILL BE THERE TO WELCOME YOU!

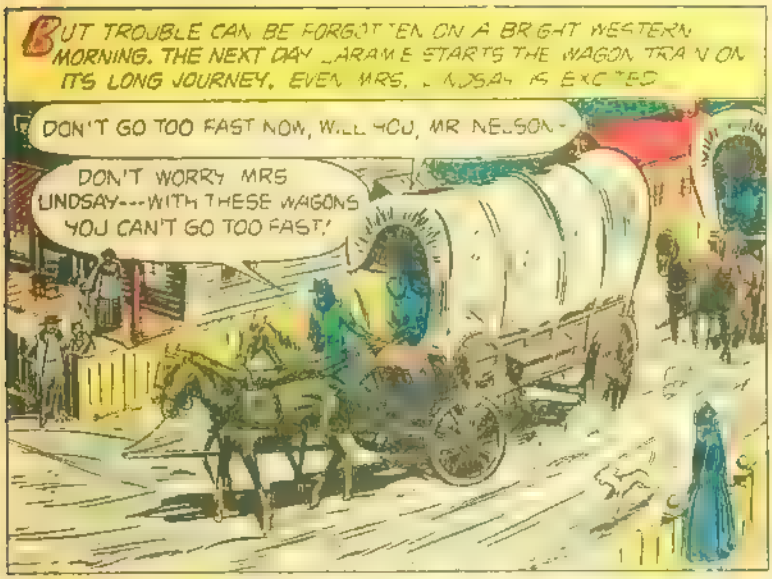
I'LL BE YOUR NEIGHBOR, MR. LINDSAY. MY NEW SPREAD IS CLOSE TO SPANISH PEAKS! STOP BY AND VISIT AS SOON AS YOU FIND TIME!
THANK YOU, MR ALLEN--WE SURELY WILL!


BEFORE YOU GO, MR ALLEN--TELL US EXACTLY HOW MUCH STOCK THERE IS AT THE RANCH!
WEL..., MISS, I DON'T RIGHTLY KNOW...

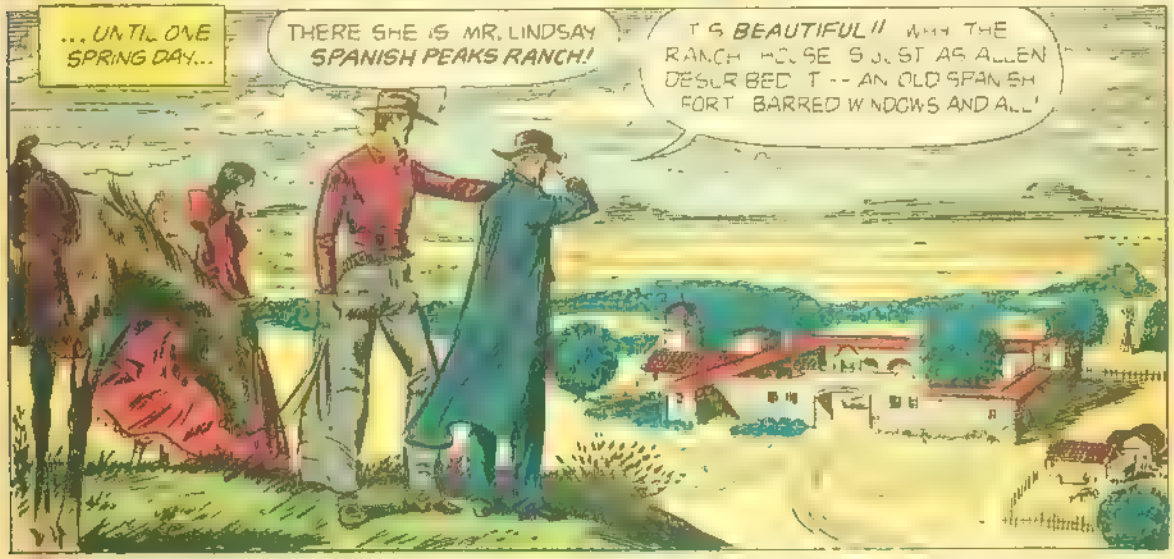

THAT SEEMS MIGHTY STRANGE! I NEVER MET A RANCHER WHO DIDN'T COUNT HIS STOCK!
WELL. IT'S A BIG RANCH! I'D SAY 10,000 HEAD OF CATTLE - NO MORE... MAYBE A LOT LESS!

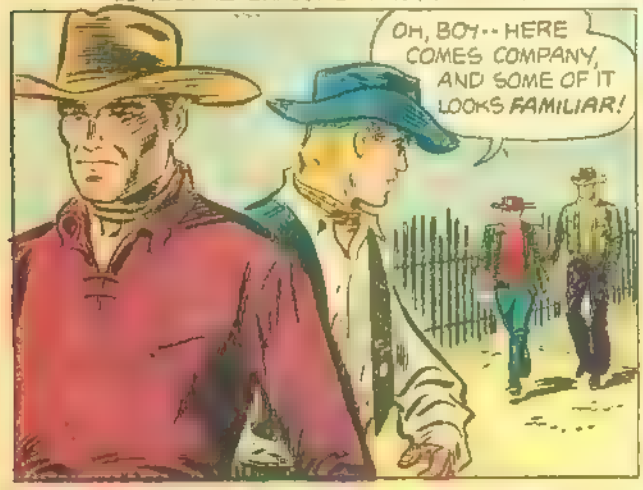

LUKE ARLIDGE CAN TELL YOU BETTER THAN I CAN. ASK HIM WHEN YOU GET THERE!
WE'LL ASK, ALL RIGHT! AND WE'LL COUNT THEM OUR-SELVES, TOO!


WELL!
THINGS DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD, DO THEY?
NOT GOOD AT ALL!
SLAM!


BUT TROUBLE CAN BE FORGOTTEN ON A BRIGHT WESTERN MORNING. THE NEXT DAY LARAMIE STARTS THE WAGON TRAIN ON ITS LONG JOURNEY. EVEN MRS. LINDSAY IS EXCITED
DON'T GO TOO FAST NOW, WILL YOU, MR NELSON-
DON'T WORRY MRS LINDSAY---WITH THESE WAGONS YOU CAN'T GO TOO FAST!

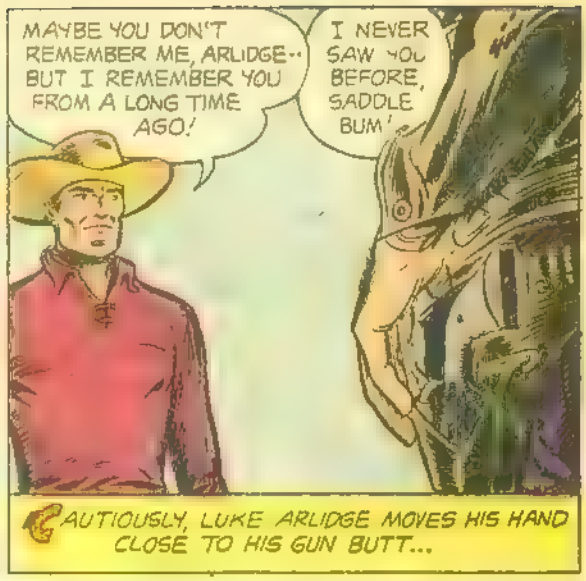
DAY AFTER DAY MORE GROUND PASSES UNDER THE ROLLING WAGON WHEELS...

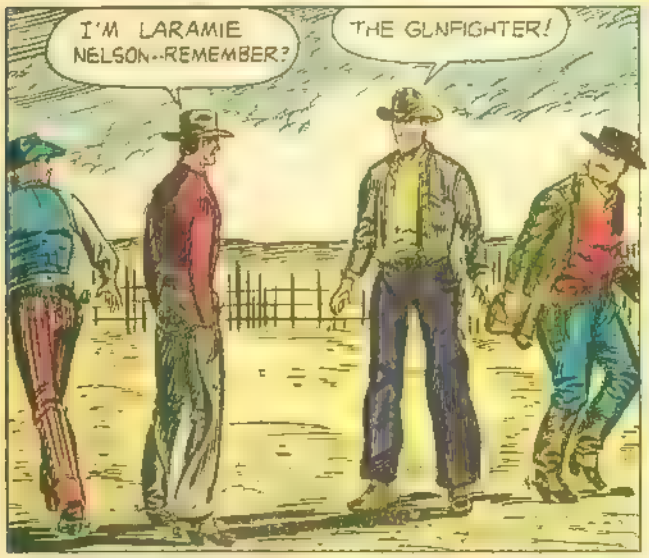

...UNTIL ONE SPRING DAY...
THERE SHE IS MR. LINDSAY SPANISH PEAKS RANCH!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!! WITH THE RANCH HOUSE JUST AS ALLEN DESCRIBED IT -- AN OLD SPANISH FORT BARRED WINDOWS AND ALL!

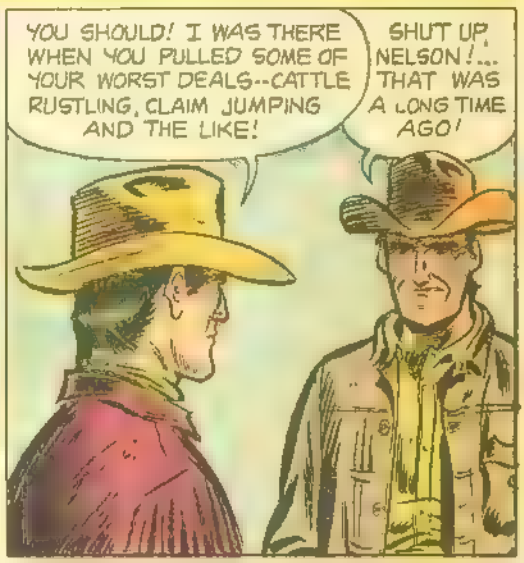

AFTER STARTING THE LINDSAYS ON THE WORK OF PUTTING THE OLD FORT IN ORDER, LARAMIE AND LONESOME EXPLORE THE RANCH...
OH, BOY-- HERE COMES COMPANY, AND SOME OF IT LOOKS FAMILIAR!

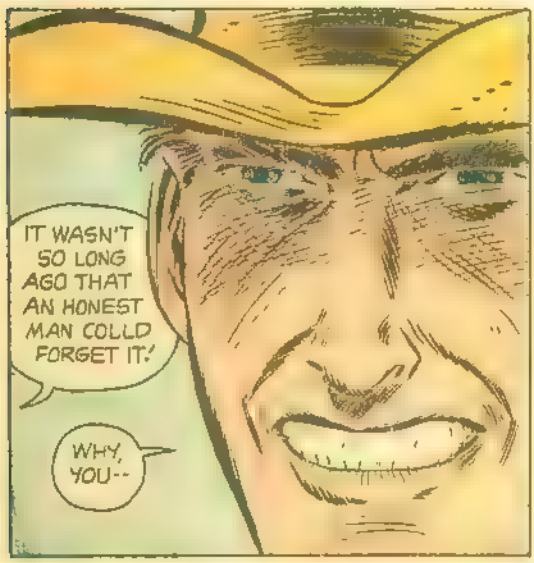
PRICE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M LUKE ARLIDGE'S TOP HAND--IF IT'S ANYTHING TO YOU!

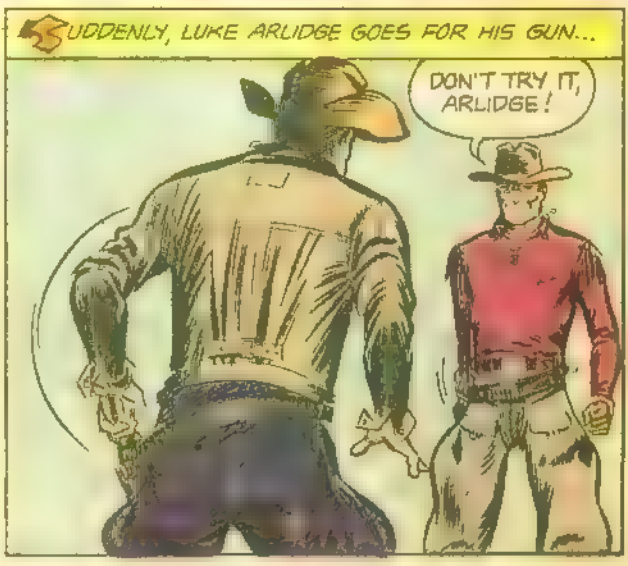
WE DON'T WANT YOU AROUND THIS RANCH, PRICE! GET OUT! I'M RUNNING THINGS FOR MR. LINDSAY, THE NEW OWNER.
YOU ARE, HUH? I'M RANGE BOSS OF SPANISH PEAKS AND I GIVE THE ORDERS!


MAYBE YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME, ARLIDGE-- BUT I REMEMBER YOU FROM A LONG TIME AGO!
I NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE, SADDLE BUM!
CAUTIOUSLY, LUKE ARLIDGE MOVES HIS HAND CLOSE TO HIS GUN BUTT...


I'M LARAMIE NELSON--REMEMBER?
THE GUNFIGHTER!

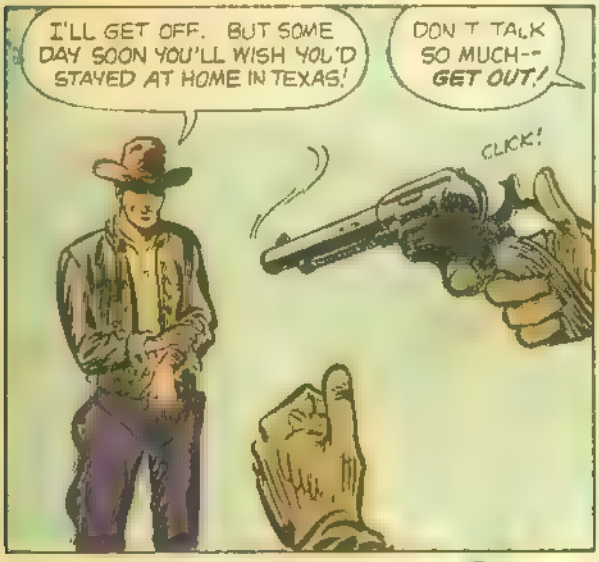

YOU SHOULD! I WAS THERE WHEN YOU PULLED SOME OF YOUR WORST DEALS--CATTLE RUSTLING, CLAIM JUMPING AND THE LIKE!
SHUT UP, NELSON!... THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO!


IT WASN'T SO LONG AGO THAT AN HONEST MAN COULD FORGET IT!
WHY, YOU--


SUDDENLY, LUKE ARLIDGE GOES FOR HIS GUN...
DON'T TRY IT, ARLIDGE!

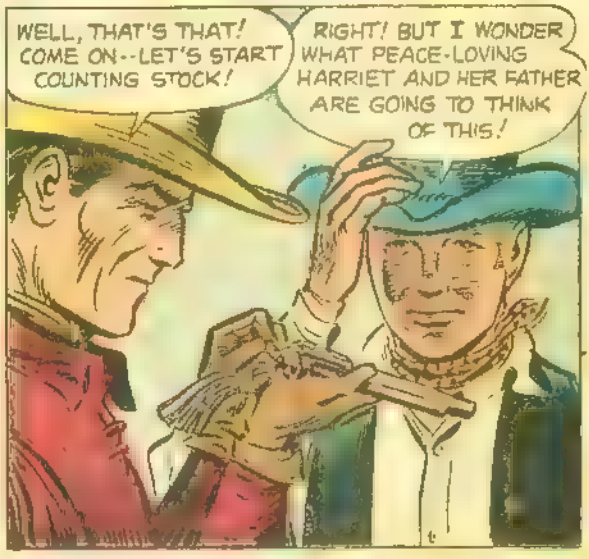
LARAMIE LIVES UP TO HIS REPUTATION...

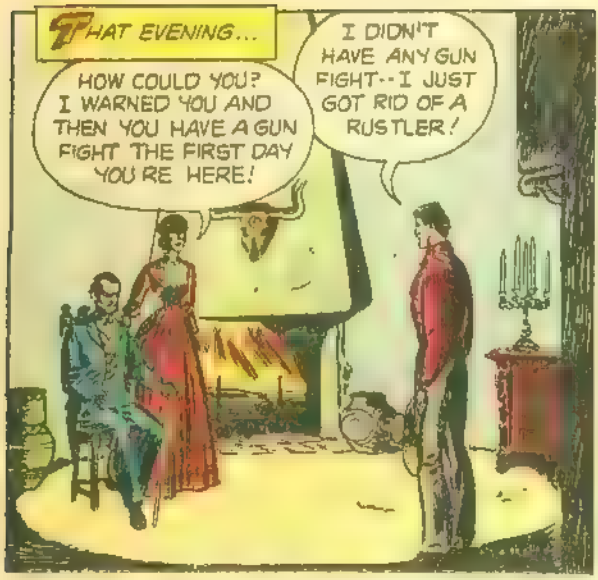
MY HAND! MY HAND!
NOW GET OUT! I DON'T WANT TO CATCH YOU ON MR. LINDSAY'S LAND AGAIN!


I'LL GET OFF. BUT SOME DAY SOON YOU'LL WISH YOU'D STAYED AT HOME IN TEXAS!
DON'T TALK SO MUCH-- GET OUT!
CLICK!

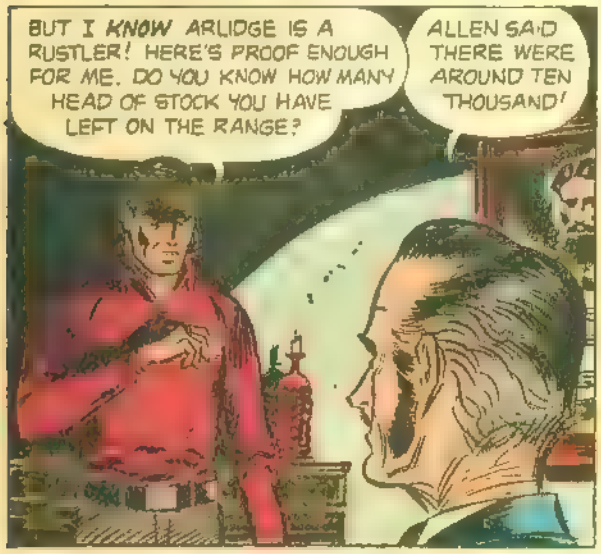
HEY ARLIDGE! YOU'D BETTER TAKE PRICE WITH YOU!
DON'T DON'T! I'M GOING!

WAIT FOR ME, LUKE! WAIT A MINUTE, CAN'T YOU?
LOOK AT THAT SIDE-WINDER RUN! HAW! HAW!

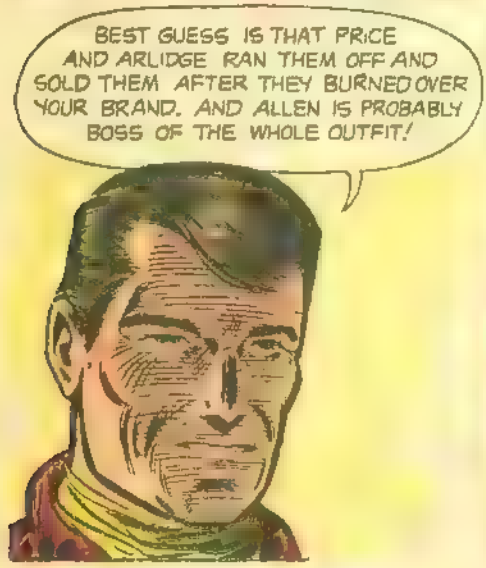

WELL, THAT'S THAT! COME ON--LET'S START COUNTING STOCK!
RIGHT! BUT I WONDER WHAT PEACE-LOVING HARRIET AND HER FATHER ARE GOING TO THINK OF THIS!


THAT EVENING...
HOW COULD YOU? I WARNED YOU AND THEN YOU HAVE A GUN FIGHT THE FIRST DAY YOU'RE HERE!
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY GUN FIGHT--I JUST GOT RID OF A RUSTLER!

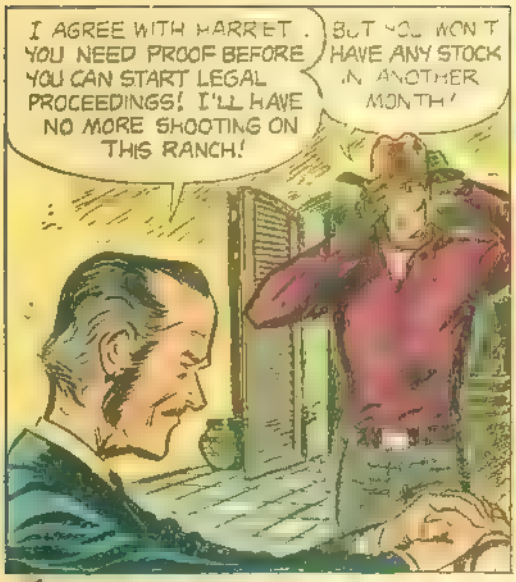
MAYBE IT WASN'T A GUN FIGHT, BUT YOU MUST ADMIT YOU WERE A LITTLE HIGHHANDED TO SAY THE LEAST! YOU HAD NO PROOF!
TO SAY THE LEAST


BUT I KNOW ARLIDGE IS A RUSTLER! HERE'S PROOF ENOUGH FOR ME. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY HEAD OF STOCK YOU HAVE LEFT ON THE RANGE?
ALLEN SAID THERE WERE AROUND TEN THOUSAND!

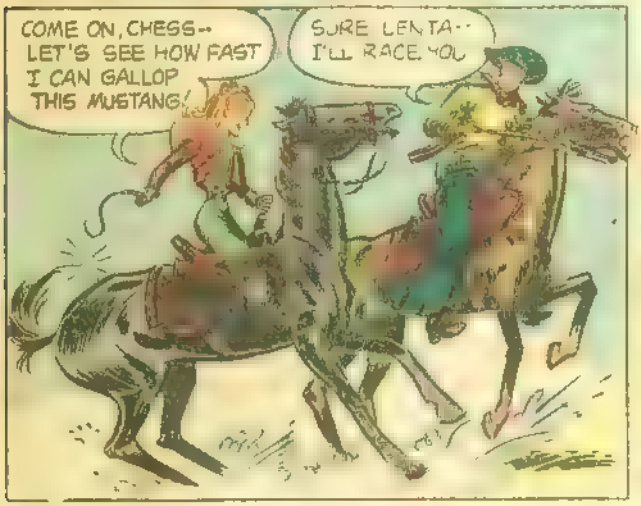
THEN ALLEN IS A LIAR! THERE'S THE TALLY SHEET AND THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT TWO THOUSAND LEFT!
TWO THOUSAND! WHERE ARE THE REST?

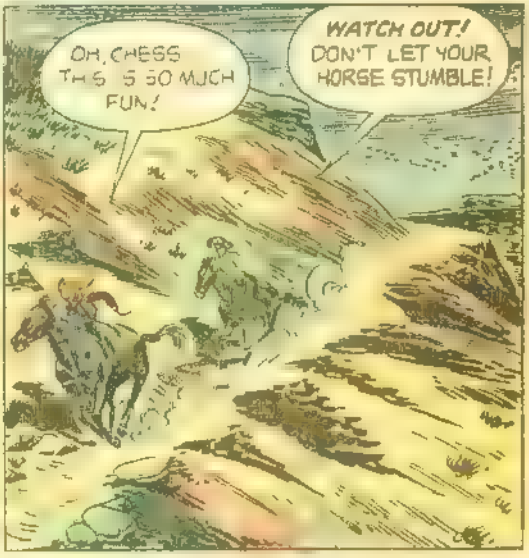

BEST GUESS IS THAT PRICE AND ARLIDGE RAN THEM OFF AND SOLD THEM AFTER THEY BURNED OVER YOUR BRAND. AND ALLEN IS PROBABLY BOSS OF THE WHOLE OUTFIT!

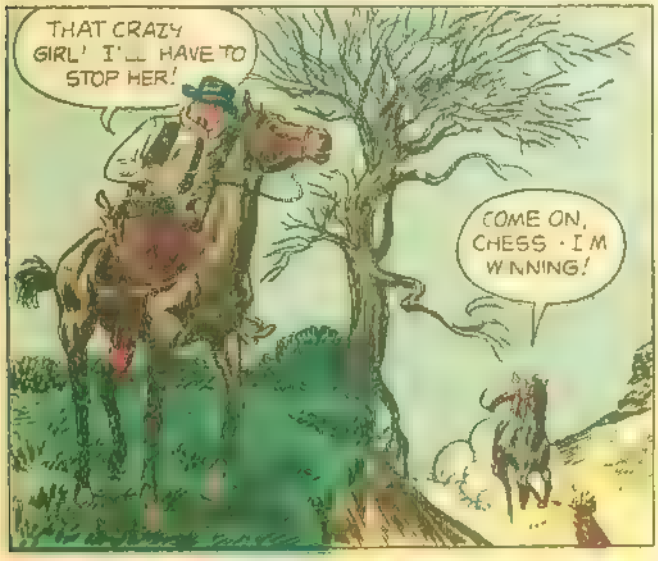
MR. LINDSAY, LET ME AND LONESOME AND TRACKS RIDE OVER TO ALLEN'S RANCH TONIGHT! WE'LL END THIS RUSTLING FOR GOOD!
NO! YOU AREN'T GOING TO START A RANGE WAR!


I AGREE WITH HARRET. YOU NEED PROOF BEFORE YOU CAN START LEGAL PROCEEDINGS! I'LL HAVE NO MORE SHOOTING ON THIS RANCH!
BUT YOU WON'T HAVE ANY STOCK IN ANOTHER MONTH!

LARAMIE'S PROTEST IS IN VAIN. NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE RUSTLERS RETURN SPOOKING OFF A FEW STEERS HERE AND THERE UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS..

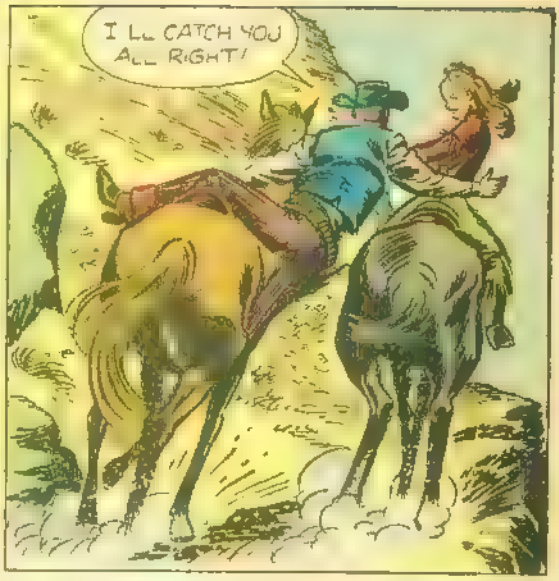

AND OTHER TROUBLE IS BREWING AS LENTA RIDES THE OPEN RANGE WITH RANCH HAND, CHESS GAINES.
COME ON, CHESS-- LET'S SEE HOW FAST I CAN GALLOP THIS MUSTANG!
SURE LENTA-- I'LL RACE YOU


OH, CHESS THIS IS SO MUCH FUN!
WATCH OUT! DON'T LET YOUR HORSE STUMBLE!

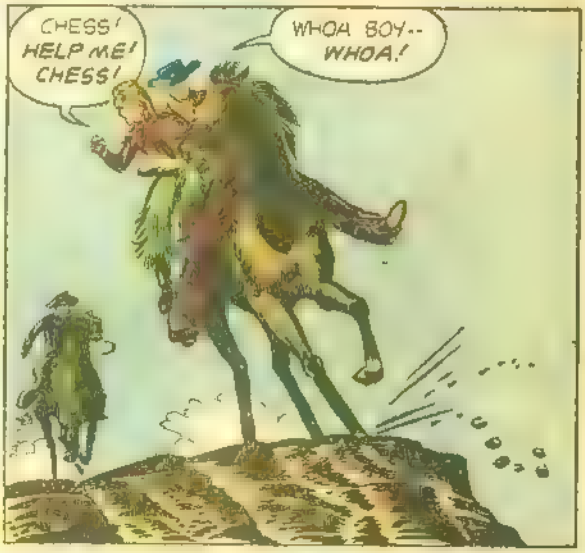

THAT CRAZY GIRL! I'LL HAVE TO STOP HER!
COME ON, CHESS - I'M WINNING!

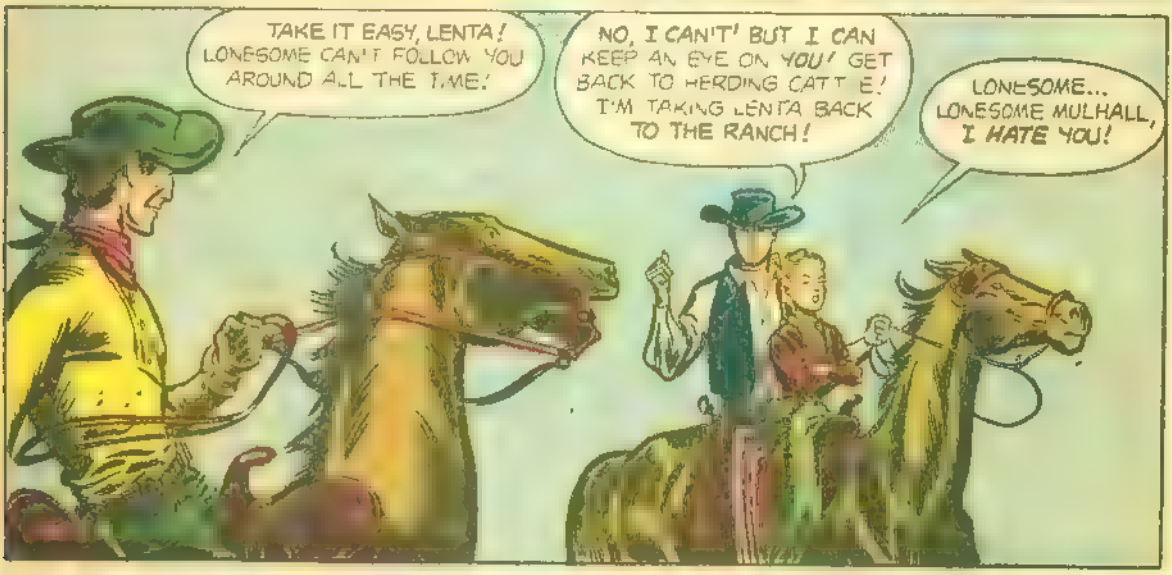
LENTA! STOP!
LONESOME! YOU JUST TRY TO STOP ME!

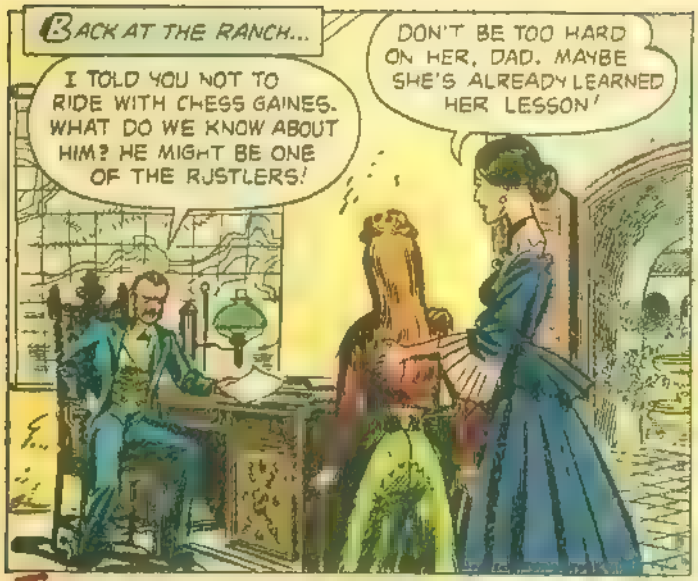
I'LL PULL YOU OUT OF YOUR SADDLE!
IF YOU CAN CATCH ME!

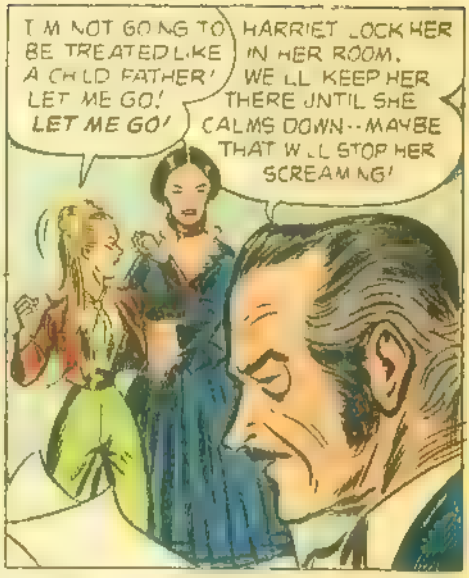

I'LL CATCH YOU ALL RIGHT!

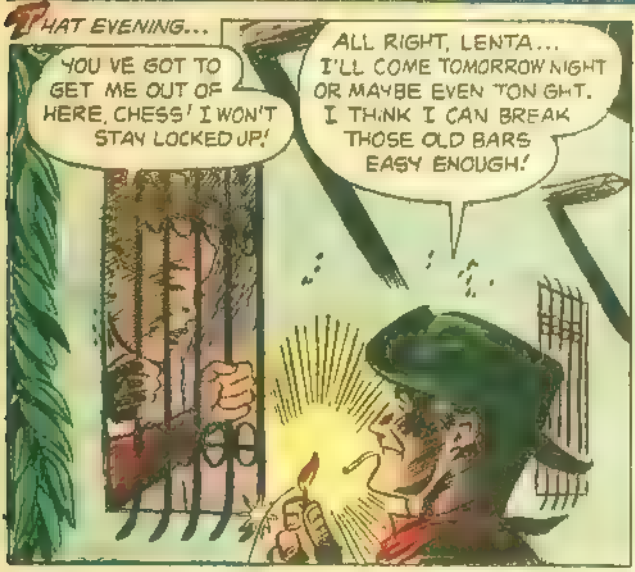
LEAVE ME ALONE!


CHESS! HELP ME! CHESS!
WHOA BOY-- WHOA!

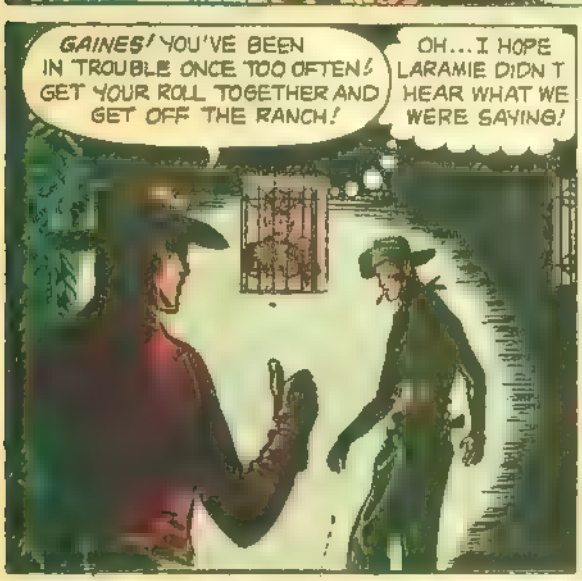

TAKE IT EASY, LENTA! LONESOME CAN'T FOLLOW YOU AROUND ALL THE TIME!
NO, I CAN'T! BUT I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON YOU! GET BACK TO HERDING CATTLE! I'M TAKING LENTA BACK TO THE RANCH!
LONESOME... LONESOME MULHALL, I HATE YOU!


BACK AT THE RANCH...
I TOLD YOU NOT TO RIDE WITH CHESS GAINES. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT HIM? HE MIGHT BE ONE OF THE RUSTLERS!
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HER, DAD. MAYBE SHE'S ALREADY LEARNED HER LESSON!


I'M NOT GOING TO BE TREATED LIKE A CHILD FATHER! LET ME GO! LET ME GO!
HARRIET LOCK HER IN HER ROOM. WE'LL KEEP HER THERE UNTIL SHE CALMS DOWN--MAYBE THAT WILL STOP HER SCREAMING!

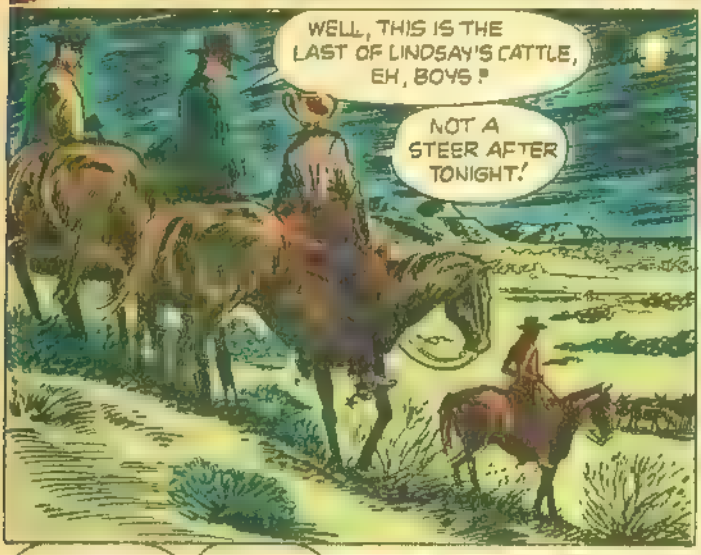

THAT EVENING...
YOU'VE GOT TO GET ME OUT OF HERE, CHESS! I WON'T STAY LOCKED UP!
ALL RIGHT, LENTA... I'LL COME TOMORROW NIGHT OR MAYBE EVEN TONIGHT. I THINK I CAN BREAK THOSE OLD BARS EASY ENOUGH!

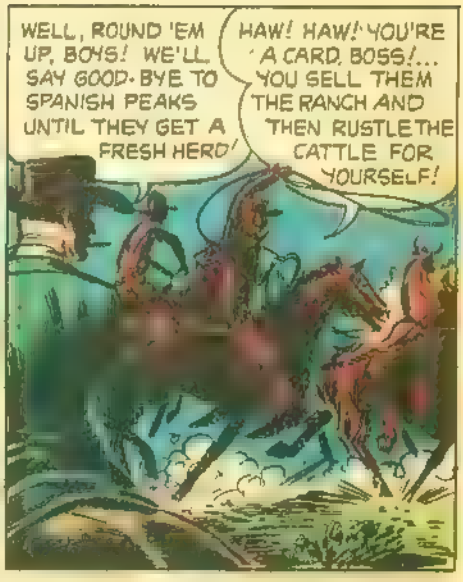
COULD YOU CHESS? OH GET ME OUT, PLEASE! FATHER TOLD HARRIET TO KEEP ME IN HERE FOR TWO WEEKS!
I'LL COME TONIGHT IF I CAN! DIDN'T I ALREADY SAY SO?

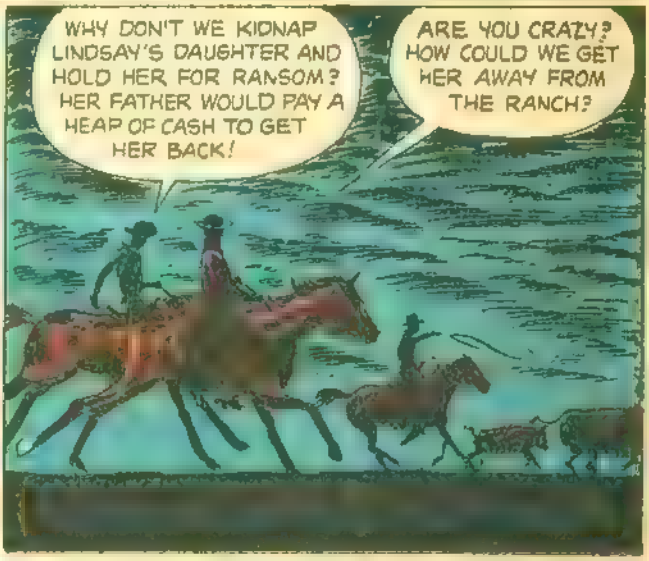

GAINES! YOU'VE BEEN IN TROUBLE ONCE TOO OFTEN! GET YOUR ROLL TOGETHER AND GET OFF THE RANCH!
OH... I HOPE LARAMIE DIDN'T HEAR WHAT WE WERE SAYING!

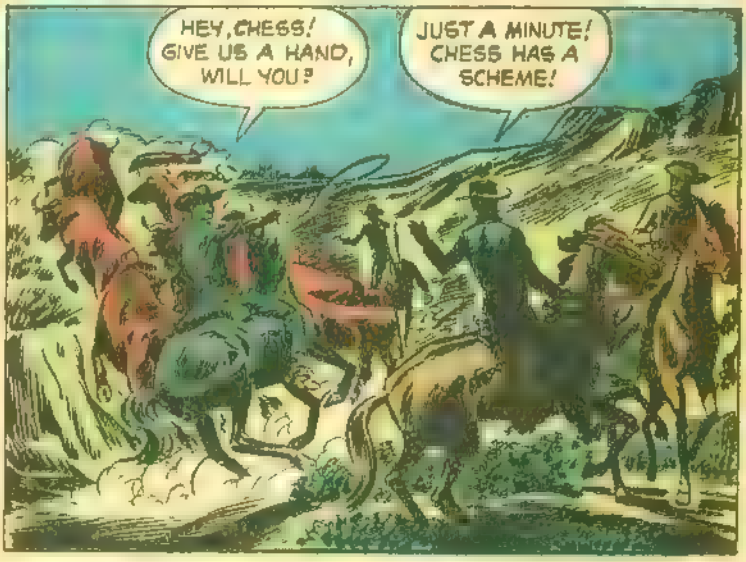
OKAY, LARAMIE! YOU'RE THE BOSS. I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!
KEEP MOVING--AND DON'T COME BACK!

BUT THAT VERY NIGHT CHESS GAINES RETURNS TO SPANISH PEAKS



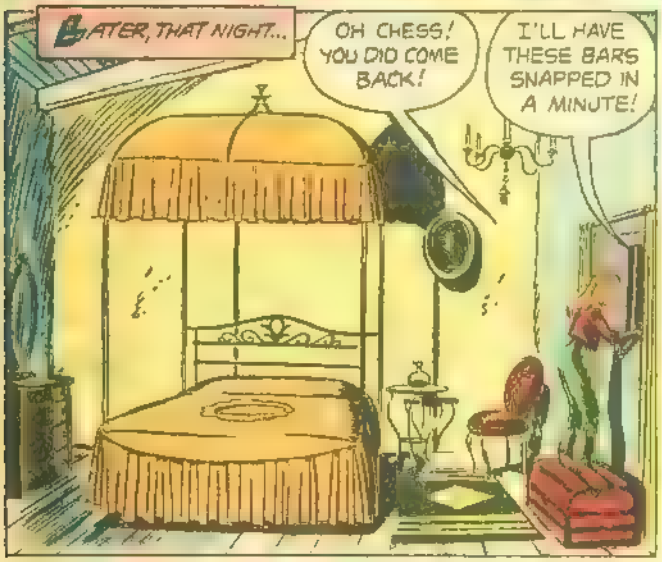






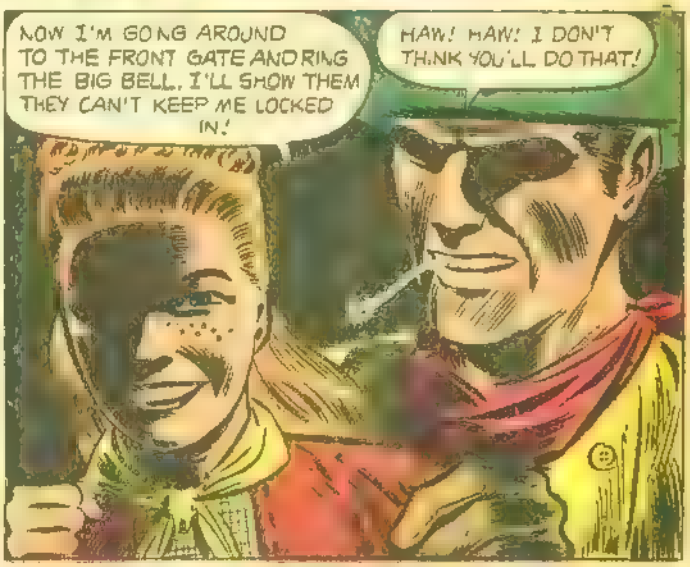
IT'S SIMPLE! WE'LL GO DOWN THERE TONIGHT. I'LL BREAK THE BARS IN HER WINDOW AND THEN WE'LL BRING HER BACK TO THE CABIN!
HMM. AND I DON'T THINK NELSON COULD FIND THE HIDE-OUT!

IF THIS CONFAB IS ABOUT CHESS' IDEA TO KIDNAP THE LINDSAY GIRL -- I THINK IT'S GREAT!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS-- I THINK YOU REALLY DO HAVE SOMETHING! GO BACK TONIGHT AND GET THE GIRL!


LATER, THAT NIGHT...
OH CHESS! YOU DID COME BACK!
I'LL HAVE THESE BARS SNAPPED IN A MINUTE!

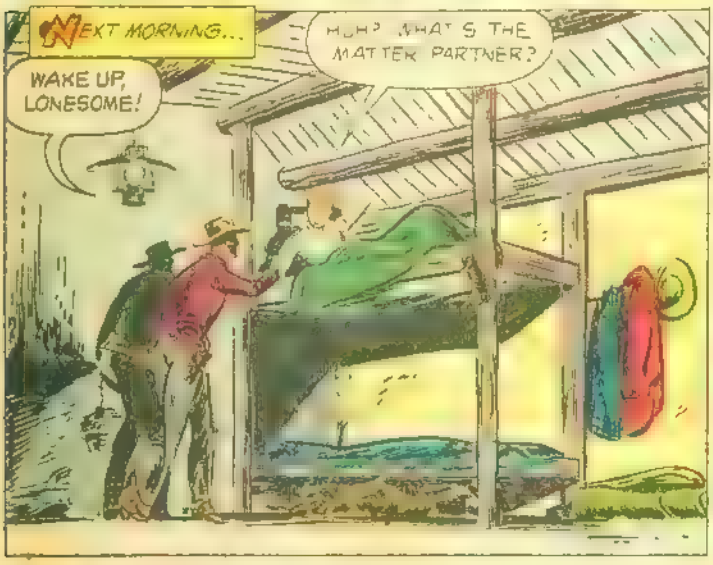
JUMP!! I'LL CATCH YOU!
HERE I COME!

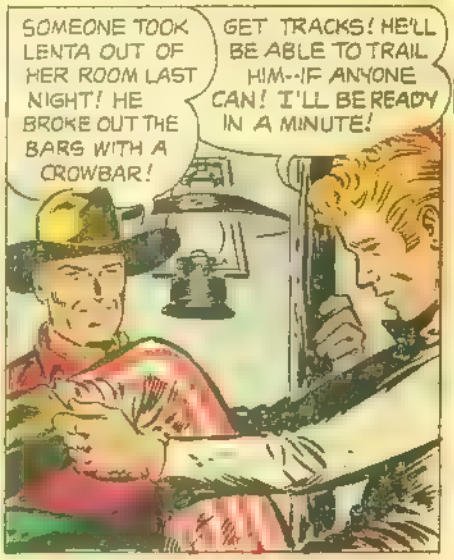
OMPH!
THERE! AT LAST I'M OUT OF THAT ROOM!

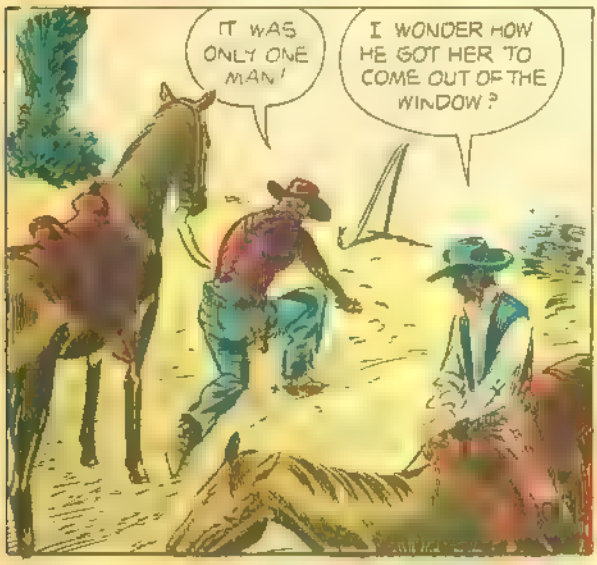

NOW I'M GOING AROUND TO THE FRONT GATE AND RING THE BIG BELL. I'LL SHOW THEM THEY CAN'T KEEP ME LOCKED IN!
HAW! HAW! I DON'T THINK YOU'LL DO THAT!

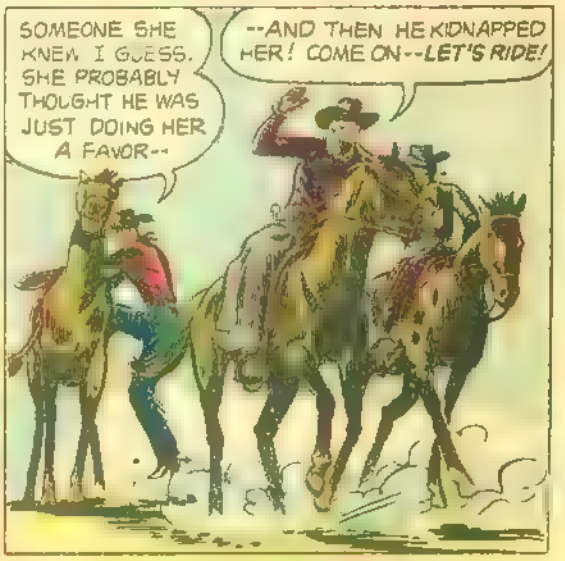
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
COME ON--YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.

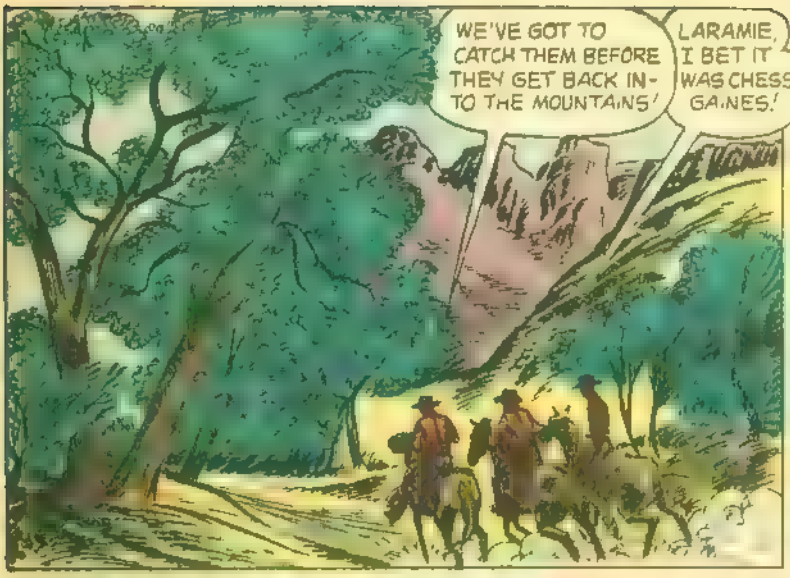
NO! NO! I'M NOT GOING WITH YOU!
SHUT UP! I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO WASTE! SOME FRIENDS OF MINE ARE WAITING!


NEXT MORNING...
WAKE UP, LONESOME!
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER PARTNER?

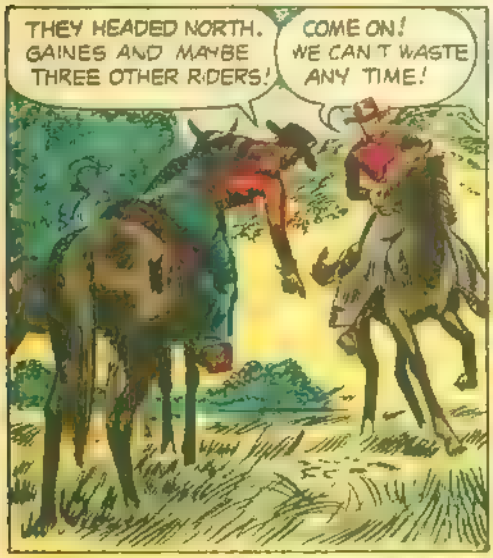

SOMEONE TOOK LENTA OUT OF HER ROOM LAST NIGHT! HE BROKE OUT THE BARS WITH A CROWBAR!
GET TRACKS! HE'LL BE ABLE TO TRAIL HIM--IF ANYONE CAN! I'LL BE READY IN A MINUTE!

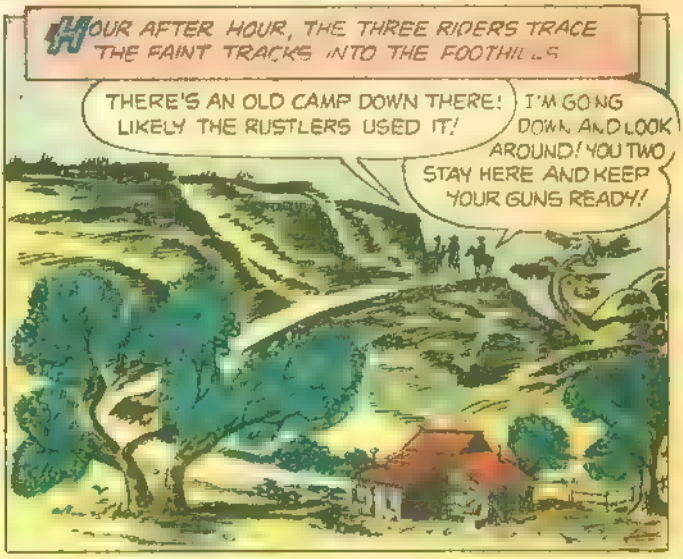

IT WAS ONLY ONE MAN!
I WONDER HOW HE GOT HER TO COME OUT OF THE WINDOW?

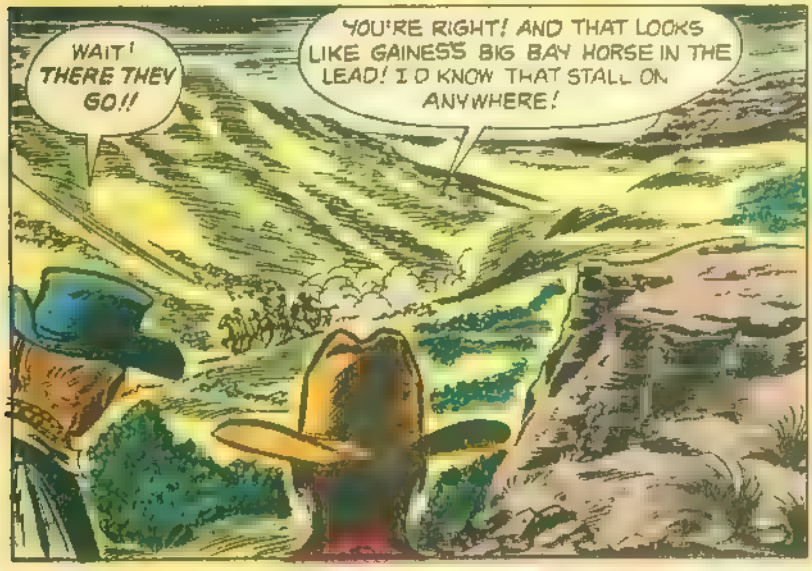

SOMEONE SHE KNEW I GUESS. SHE PROBABLY THOUGHT HE WAS JUST DOING HER A FAVOR--
--AND THEN HE KIDNAPPED HER! COME ON--LET'S RIDE!

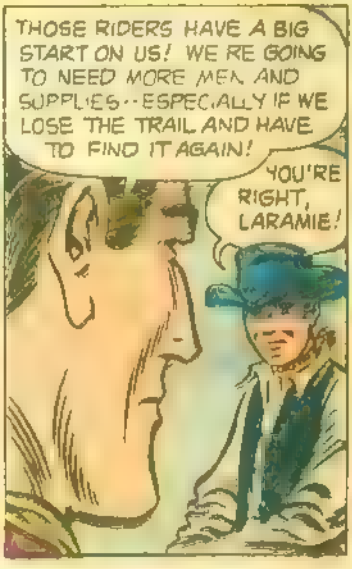

WE'VE GOT TO CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY GET BACK INTO THE MOUNTAINS!
LARAMIE, I BET IT WAS CHESS GAINES!

I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING!
STOP A MINUTE! HERE'S WHERE HE MET SOME FRIENDS!

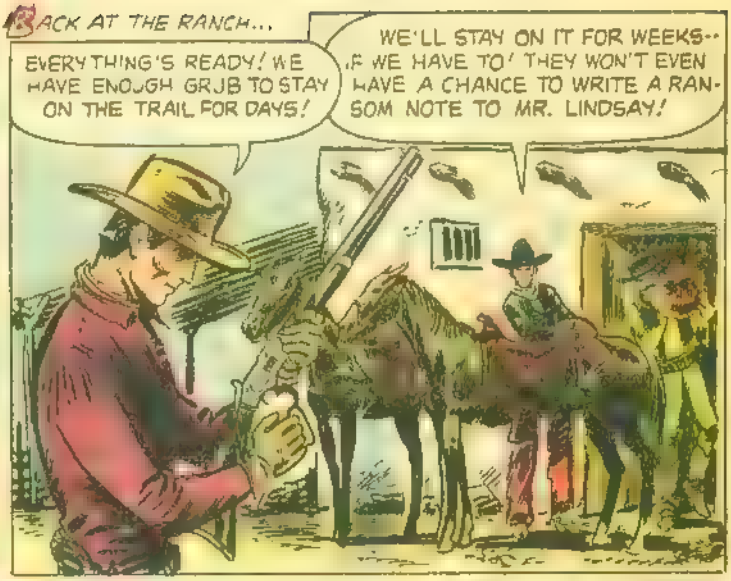

THEY HEADED NORTH. GAINES AND MAYBE THREE OTHER RIDERS!
COME ON! WE CAN'T WASTE ANY TIME!


HOUR AFTER HOUR, THE THREE RIDERS TRACE THE FAINT TRACKS INTO THE FOOTHILLS
THERE'S AN OLD CAMP DOWN THERE! LIKELY THE RUSTLERS USED IT!
I'M GOING DOWN AND LOOK AROUND! YOU TWO STAY HERE AND KEEP YOUR GUNS READY!

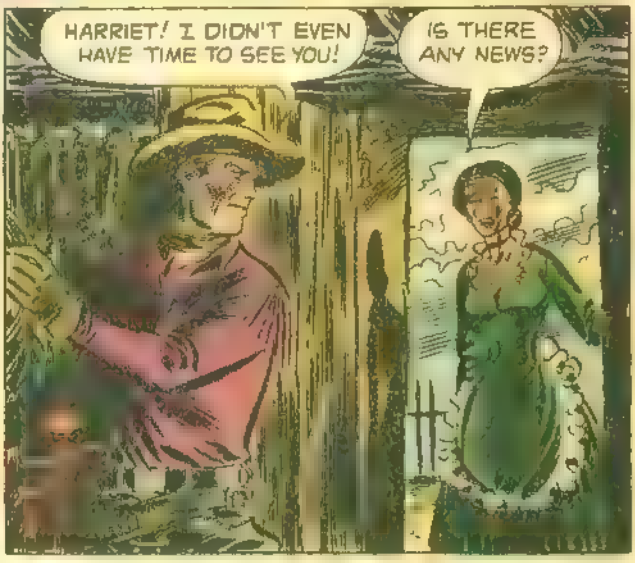

WAIT! THERE THEY GO!!
YOU'RE RIGHT! AND THAT LOOKS LIKE GAINES'S BIG BAY HORSE IN THE LEAD! I DO KNOW THAT STALLION ANYWHERE!

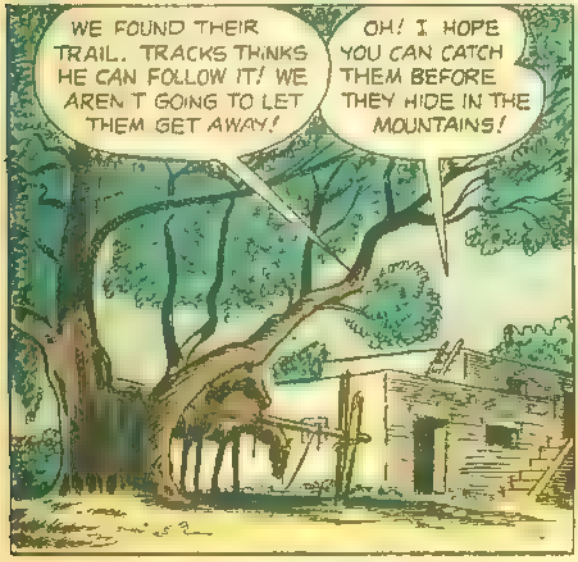

THOSE RIDERS HAVE A BIG START ON US! WE'RE GOING TO NEED MORE MEN AND SUPPLIES--ESPECIALLY IF WE LOSE THE TRAIL AND HAVE TO FIND IT AGAIN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LARAMIE!

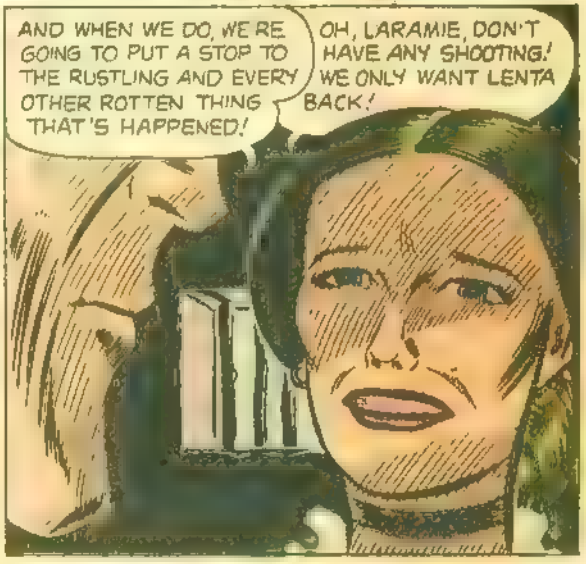
YOU KEEP GOING! MAKE FOR THAT NOTCH--LEAVE THE TRAIL PLAINLY MARKED. YOU CAN FOLLOW IT, CAN'T YOU, TRACK?
I SURE CAN--BUT HURRY!

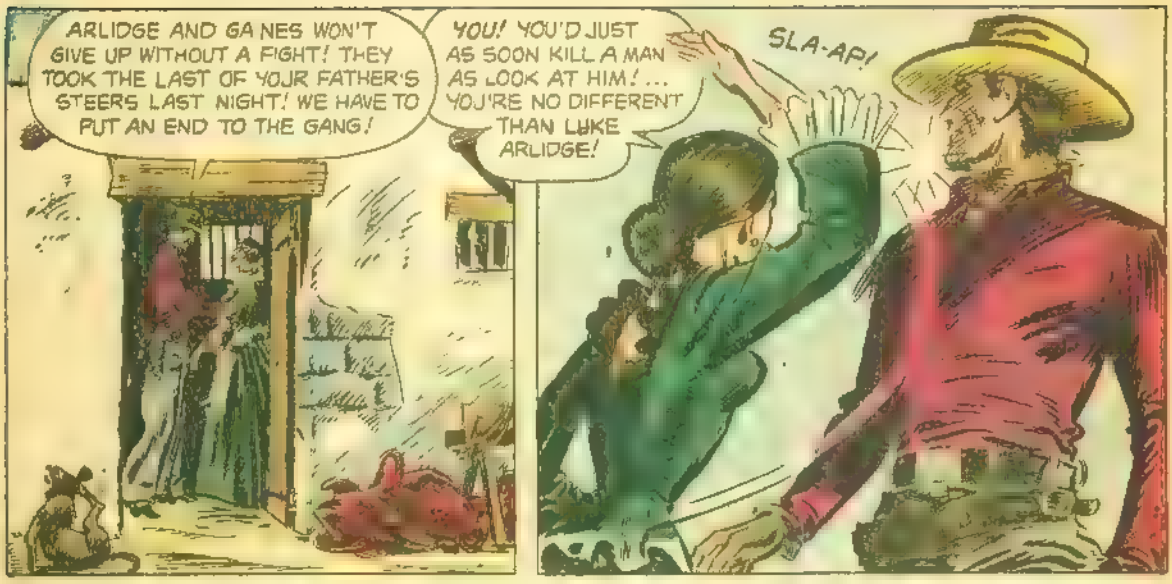

BACK AT THE RANCH...
EVERYTHING'S READY! WE HAVE ENOUGH GRUB TO STAY ON THE TRAIL FOR DAYS!
WE'LL STAY ON IT FOR WEEKS--IF WE HAVE TO! THEY WON'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO WRITE A RANSOM NOTE TO MR. LINDSAY!

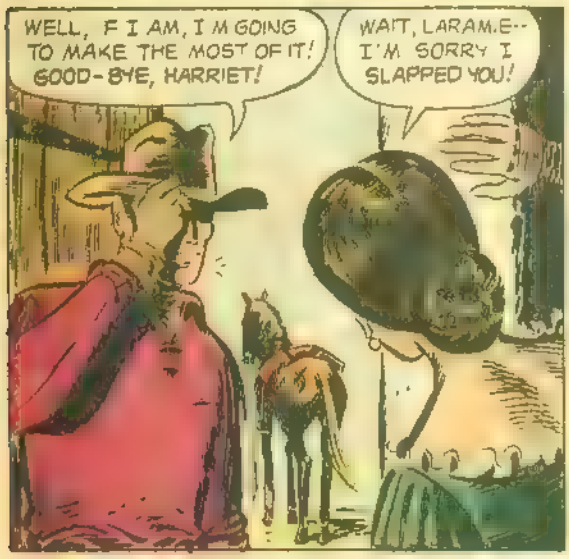
MOUNT UP! I'M GOING TO GET A NEW LARIAT!
OKAY, LARAMIE!

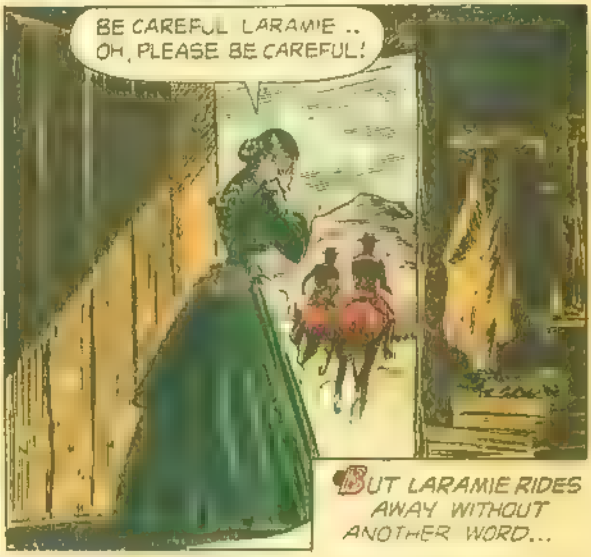

HARRIET! I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO SEE YOU!
IS THERE ANY NEWS?

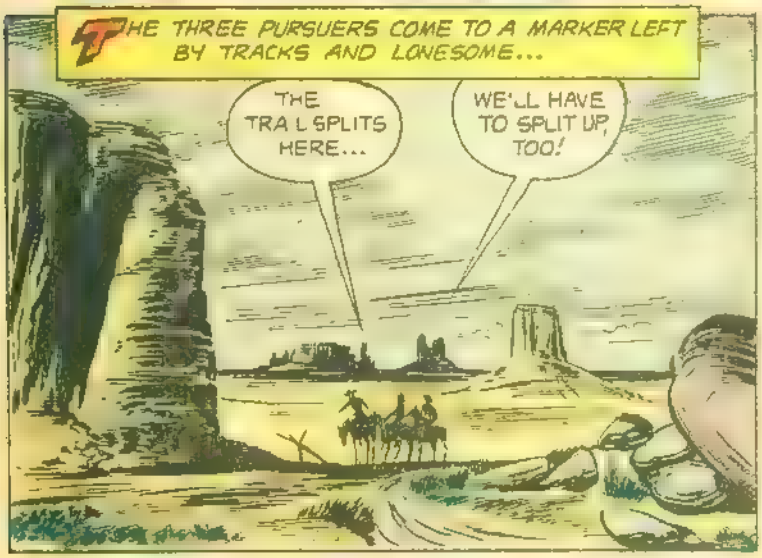

WE FOUND THEIR TRAIL. TRACKS THINKS HE CAN FOLLOW IT! WE AREN'T GOING TO LET THEM GET AWAY!
OH! I HOPE YOU CAN CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY HIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS!


AND WHEN WE DO, WE'RE GOING TO PUT A STOP TO THE RUSTLING AND EVERY OTHER ROTTEN THING THAT'S HAPPENED!
OH, LARAMIE, DON'T HAVE ANY SHOOTING! WE ONLY WANT LENTA BACK!

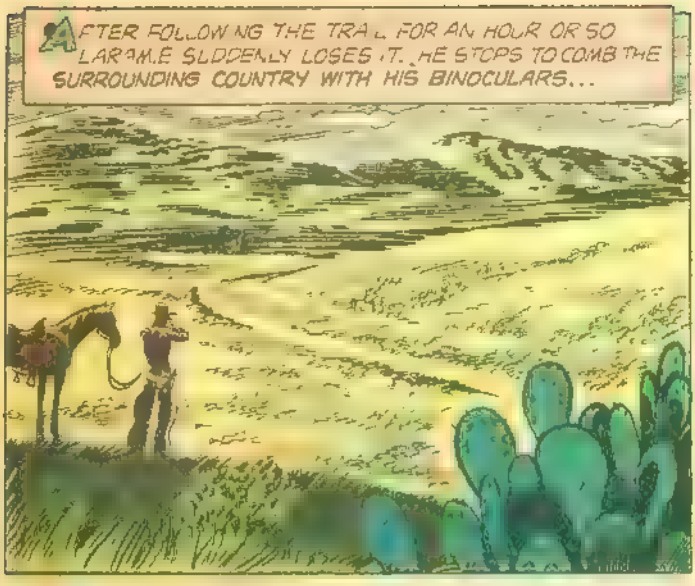

ARLIDGE AND GANES WON'T GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT! THEY TOOK THE LAST OF YOUR FATHER'S STEERS LAST NIGHT! WE HAVE TO PUT AN END TO THE GANG!
YOU! YOU'D JUST AS SOON KILL A MAN AS LOOK AT HIM! ... YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN LUKE ARLIDGE!
SLA-AP!


WELL, IF I AM, I'M GOING TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT! GOOD-BYE, HARRIET!
WAIT, LARAMIE-- I'M SORRY I SLAPPED YOU!

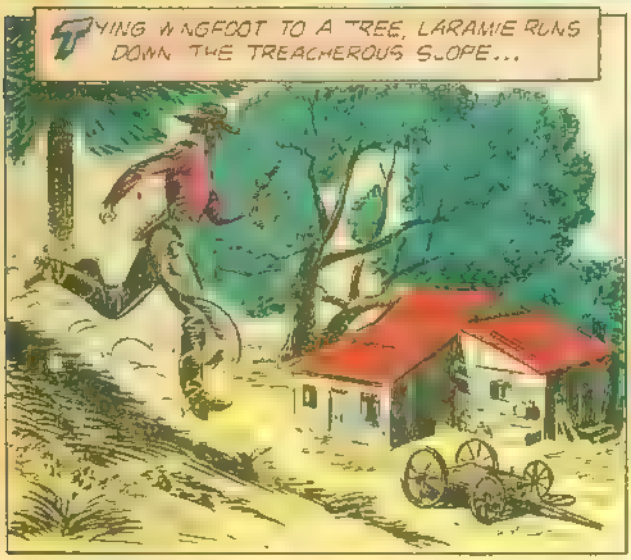

BE CAREFUL LARAMIE .. OH, PLEASE BE CAREFUL!
BUT LARAMIE RIDES AWAY WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD...


THE THREE PURSUERS COME TO A MARKER LEFT BY TRACKS AND LONESOME...
THE TRAIL SPLITS HERE...
WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP, TOO!

WE HAVE NO WAY OF TELLING WHICH WAY THEY TOOK THE GIRL!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE! I'LL GO LEFT--YOU TWO TAKE THE RIGHT FORK! GOOD LUCK!

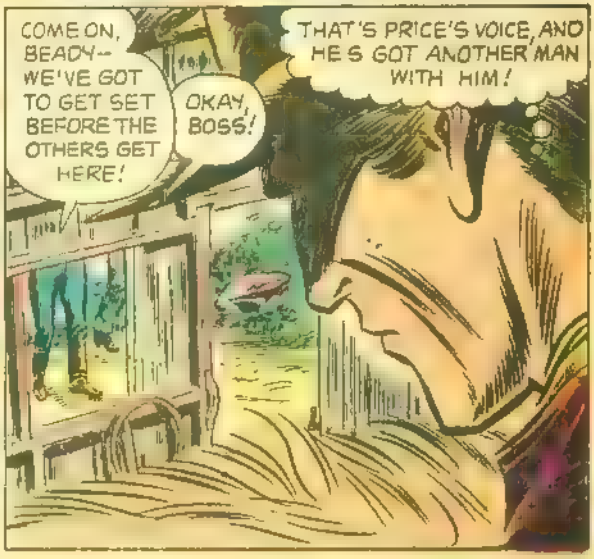

AFTER FOLLOWING THE TRAIL FOR AN HOUR OR SO LARAMIE SUDDENLY LOSES IT. HE STOPS TO COMB THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY WITH HIS BINOCULARS...

THERE THEY ARE--TWO OF THEM. THEY DOUBLED BACK TO CONFUSE US! I'VE GOT TO GET TO THAT CABIN BEFORE THEY DO!

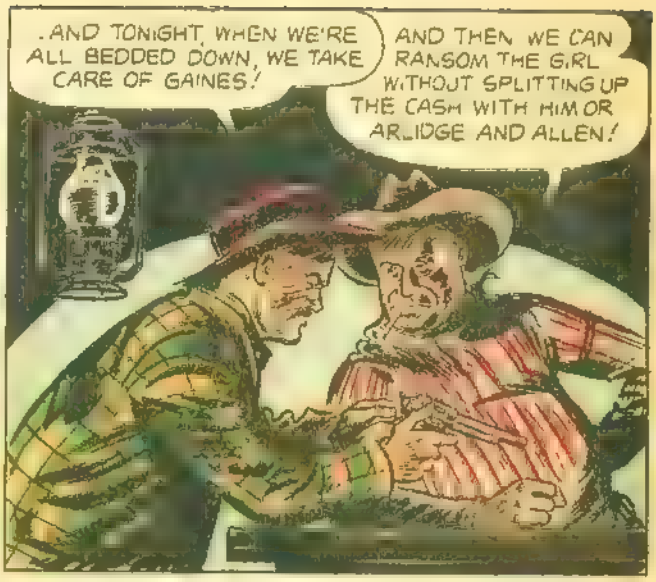

TYING WINGFOOT TO A TREE, LARAMIE RUNS DOWN THE TREACHEROUS SLOPE...

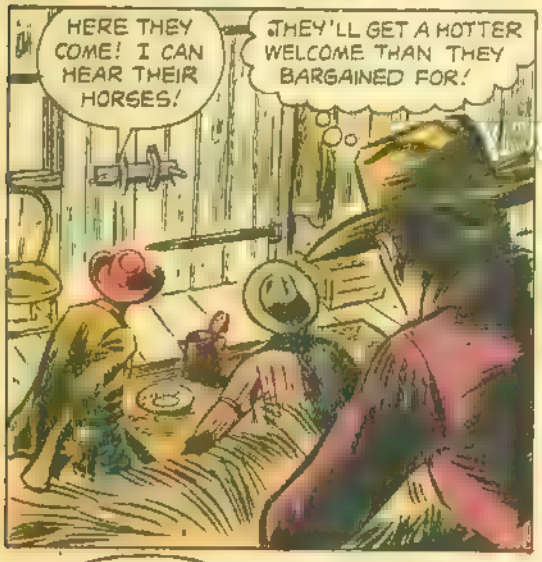
HOLDING HIS GUN READY, LARAMIE BURSTS INTO THE CABIN...

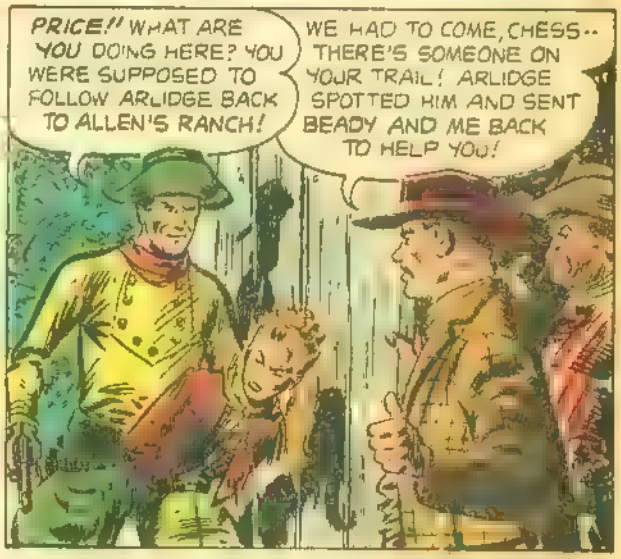
I'LL HIDE IN THE LOFT!


COME ON, BEADY-- WE'VE GOT TO GET SET BEFORE THE OTHERS GET HERE!
OKAY, BOSS!
THAT'S PRICE'S VOICE, AND HE'S GOT ANOTHER MAN WITH HIM!

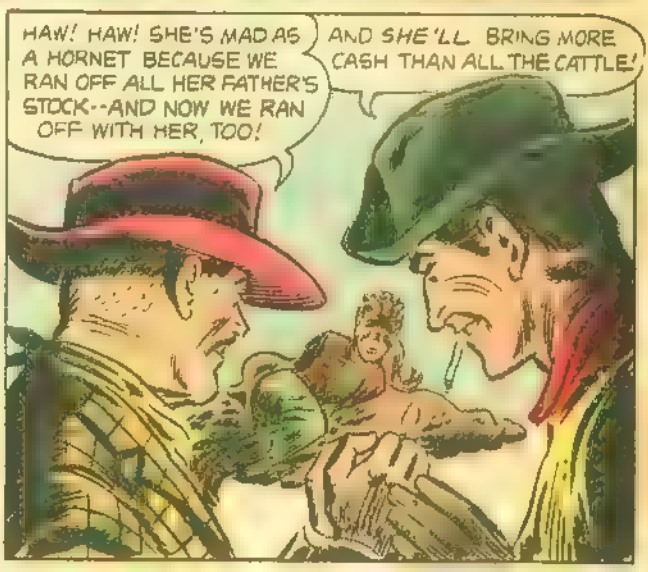
NOW LET'S GET IT STRAIGHT! WHEN CHESS GAINES GETS HERE, WE TELL HIM WE CAME HERE TO WARN HIM THAT SOMEBODY WAS FOLLOWING HIM...
RIGHT!


...AND TONIGHT, WHEN WE'RE ALL BEDDED DOWN, WE TAKE CARE OF GAINES!
AND THEN WE CAN RANSOM THE GIRL WITHOUT SPLITTING UP THE CASH WITH HIM OR ARLIDGE AND ALLEN!


HERE THEY COME! I CAN HEAR THEIR HORSES!
THEY'LL GET A HOTTER WELCOME THAN THEY BARGAINED FOR!

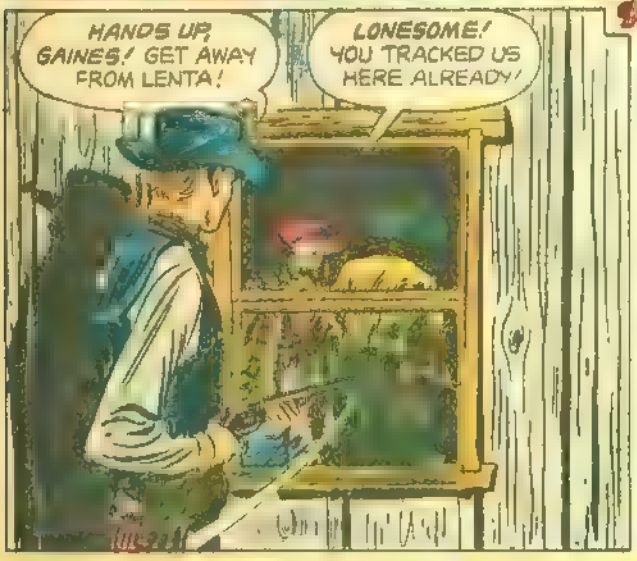

PRICE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW ARLIDGE BACK TO ALLEN'S RANCH!
WE HAD TO COME, CHESS-- THERE'S SOMEONE ON YOUR TRAIL! ARLIDGE SPOTTED HIM AND SENT BEADY AND ME BACK TO HELP YOU!

MY FATHER'S MEN WILL FIND ME! AND YOU'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO YOU, CHESS GAINES!
I WILL, WILL I? BUT YOU'LL GET YOURS -- FIRST!


HAW! HAW! SHE'S MAD AS A HORNET BECAUSE WE RAN OFF ALL HER FATHER'S STOCK--AND NOW WE RAN OFF WITH HER, TOO!
AND SHE'LL BRING MORE CASH THAN ALL THE CATTLE!

IF YOU LIVE THROUGH IT, CHESS!
HAW HAW! THEY DIDN'T STOP US YET, DID THEY? WHERE ARE ALL YOUR FRIENDS NOW, MISS LINDSAY?

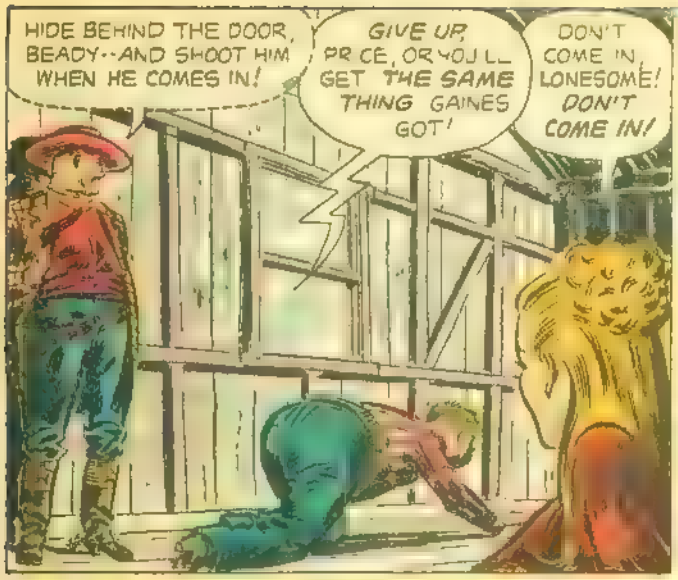
THEY'RE ON YOUR TRAIL NOW! TRACKS CAN FIND YOU WHEREVER YOU GO!
YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH, LENTA! NOW KEEP QUIET--OR YOU'LL WISH YOU HAD!


HANDS UP, GAINES! GET AWAY FROM LENTA!
LONESOME! YOU TRACKED US HERE ALREADY!

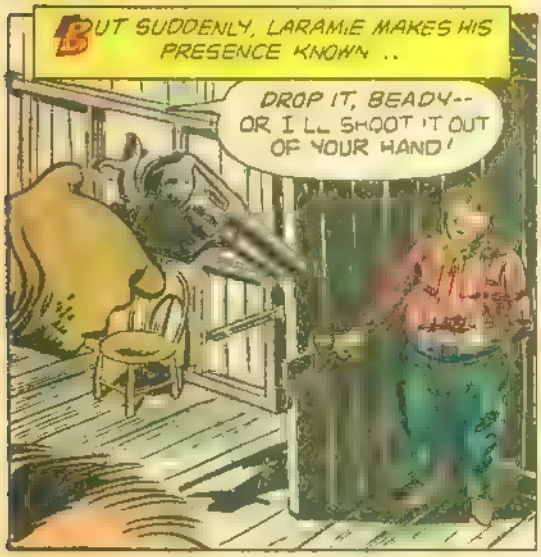
FOOLISHLY, CHESS GAINES GOES FOR HIS GUN...

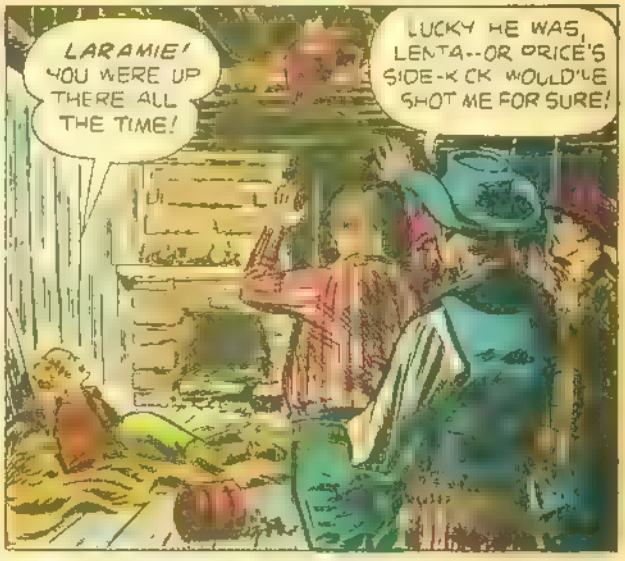
LONESOME HAS NO CHOICE...

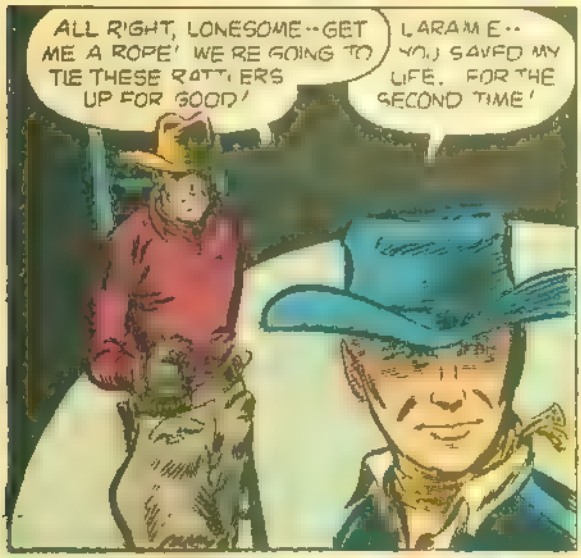
PRICE TRIES TO SHOOT LONESOME BEFORE HE CAN RELOAD HIS RIFLE, BUT THE COWBOY DUCKS BELOW THE WINDOW...

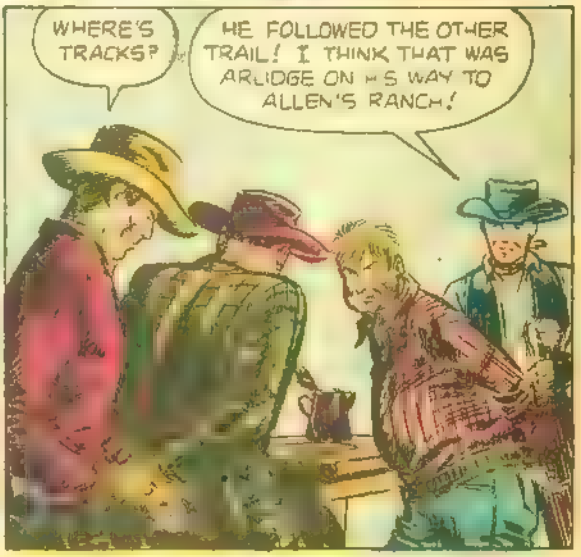

HIDE BEHIND THE DOOR, BEADY--AND SHOOT HIM WHEN HE COMES IN!
GIVE UP, PRICE, OR YOU'LL GET THE SAME THING GAINES GOT!
DON'T COME IN, LONESOME! DON'T COME IN!

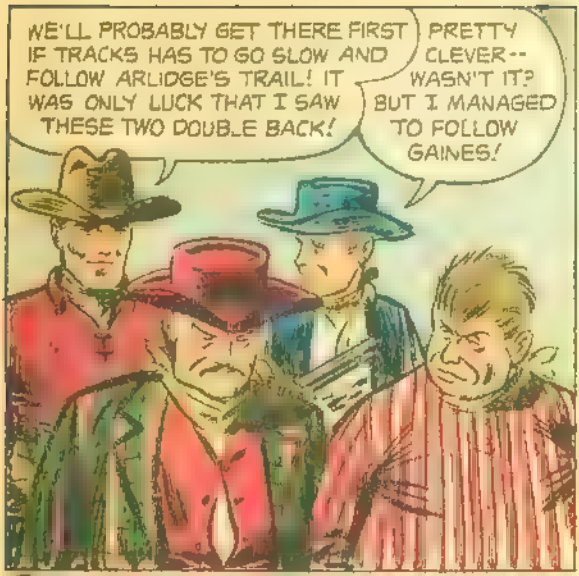
HEARING ONLY LENTA'S VOICE AND NOT HER WORDS, LONESOME PUSHES THE DOOR OPEN WITH HIS FOOT AND ENTERS...

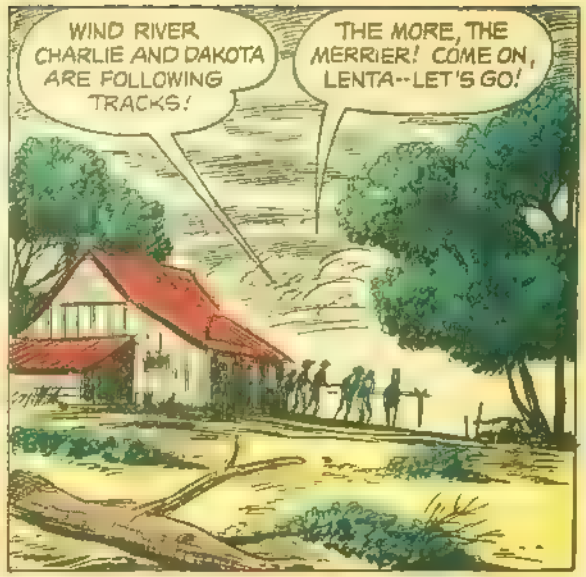

BUT SUDDENLY, LARAMIE MAKES HIS PRESENCE KNOWN ..
DROP IT, BEADY--OR I'LL SHOOT IT OUT OF YOUR HAND!


LARAMIE! YOU WERE UP THERE ALL THE TIME!
LUCKY HE WAS, LENTA--OR PRICE'S SIDE-KICK WOULD'VE SHOT ME FOR SURE!

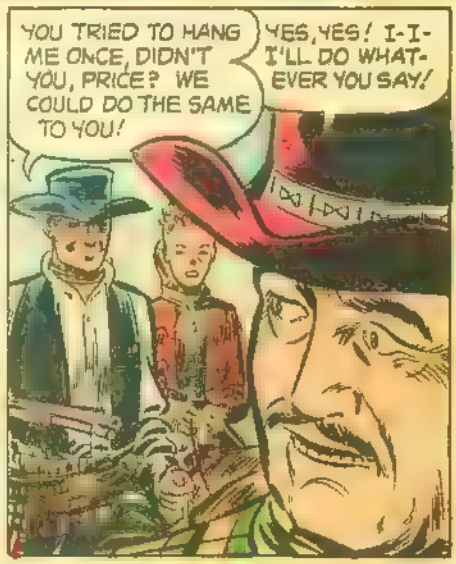

ALL RIGHT, LONESOME--GET ME A ROPE! WE'RE GOING TO TIE THESE RATTLERS UP FOR GOOD!
LARAMIE--YOU SAVED MY LIFE. FOR THE SECOND TIME!


WHERE'S TRACKS?
HE FOLLOWED THE OTHER TRAIL! I THINK THAT WAS ARLIDGE ON HIS WAY TO ALLEN'S RANCH!

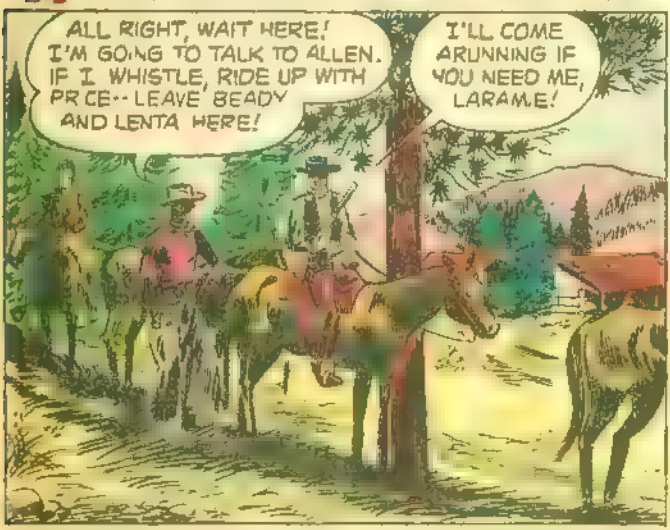


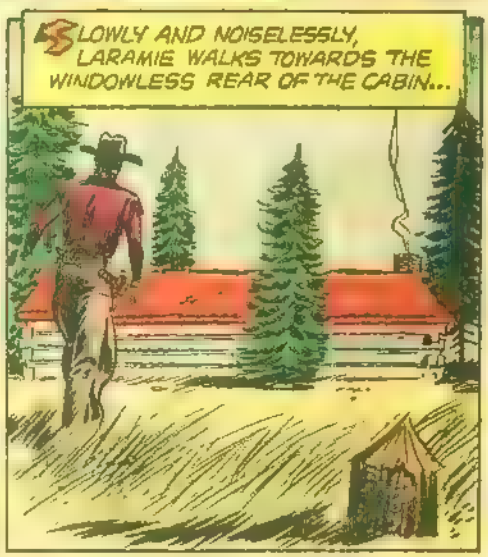


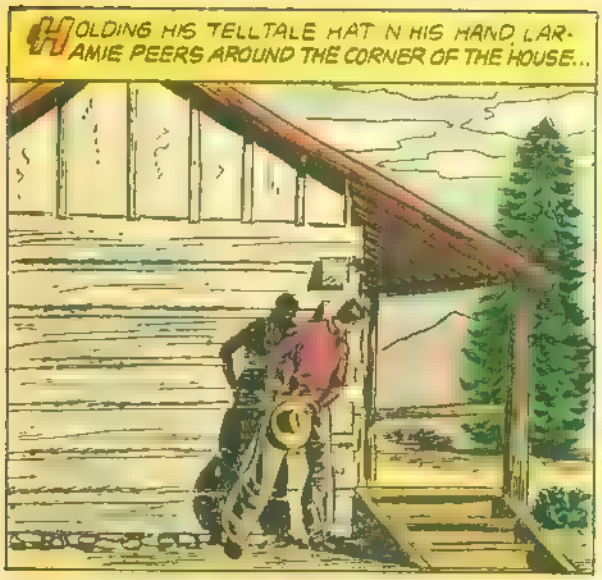
LARAMIE AND LONESOME RIDE TOWARD THE ALLEN RANCH WITH THEIR TWO PRISONERS AND THE RESCUED GIRL...



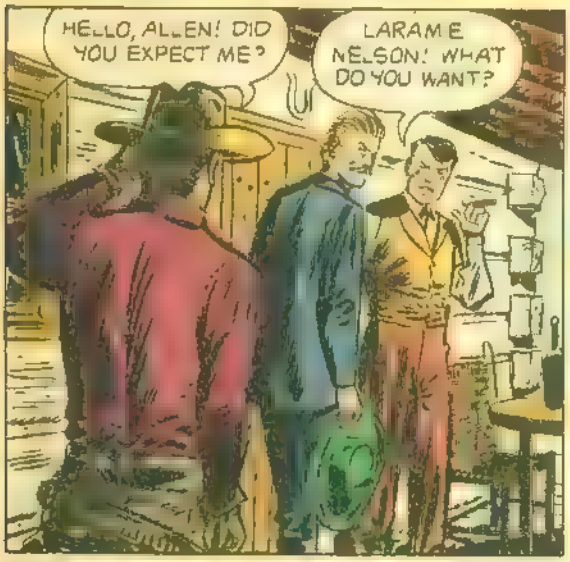
AT LAST, THE RIDERS REACH THE ALLEN RANCH...

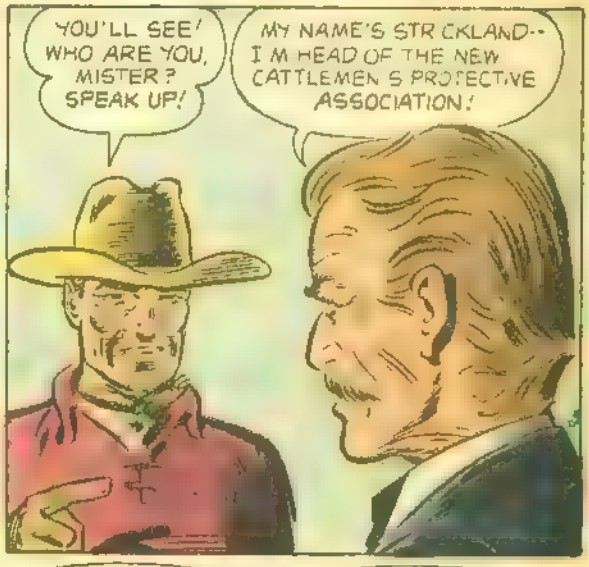




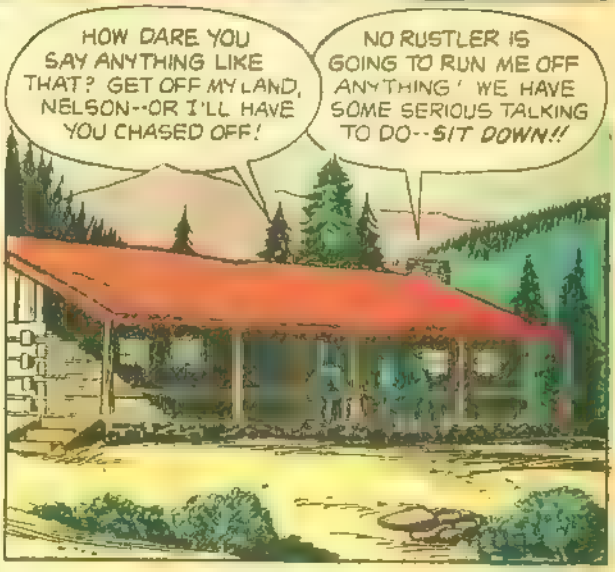

HOLDING HIS TELLTALE HAT IN HIS HAND LARAMIE PEERS AROUND THE CORNER OF THE HOUSE...

THERE'S ALLEN I WONDER WHERE ARLIDGE IS?

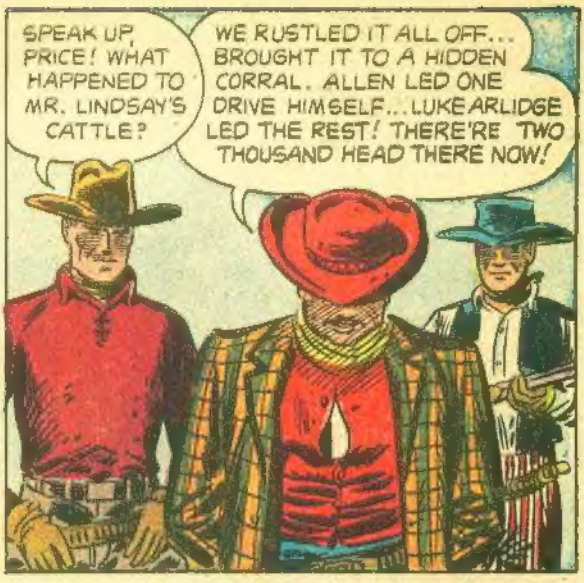

HELLO, ALLEN! DID YOU EXPECT ME?
LARAMIE NELSON! WHAT DO YOU WANT?


YOU'LL SEE! WHO ARE YOU, MISTER? SPEAK UP!
MY NAME'S STRICKLAND-- I'M HEAD OF THE NEW CATTLEMEN'S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION!

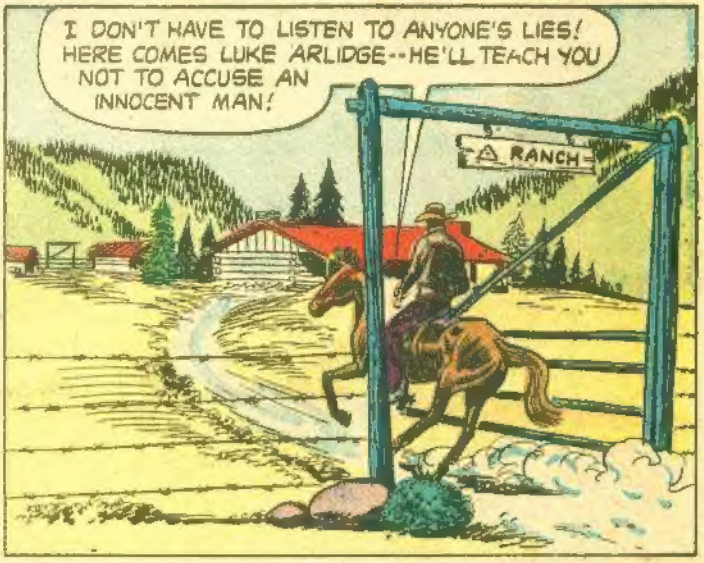
I DON'T THINK MR. ALLEN IS TOO ANXIOUS TO JOIN, IS HE, MR. STRICKLAND?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE DIDN'T WANT TO JOIN AT ALL!


HOW DARE YOU SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT? GET OFF MY LAND, NELSON--OR I'LL HAVE YOU CHASED OFF!
NO RUSTLER IS GOING TO RUN ME OFF ANYTHING! WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS TALKING TO DO--SIT DOWN!!

WHY-- IT'S PRICE! WHY HAVE YOU GOT HIM TIED UP?
TWEET!


SPEAK UP, PRICE! WHAT HAPPENED TO MR. LINDSAY'S CATTLE?
WE RUSTLED IT ALL OFF... BROUGHT IT TO A HIDDEN CORRAL. ALLEN LED ONE DRIVE HIMSELF... LUKE ARLIDGE LED THE REST! THERE'RE TWO THOUSAND HEAD THERE NOW!

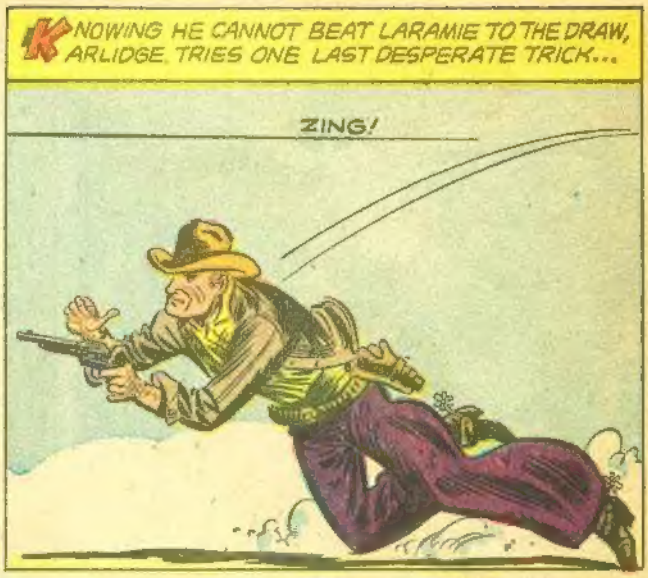
KEEP TALKING! MR. ALLEN IS INTERESTED!
WE BURNED OVER THE LINDSAY PEAK DOT BRAND WITH ALLEN'S TRIANGLE BRAND AND SOLD THEM--


I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO ANYONE'S LIES! HERE COMES LUKE ARLIDGE--HE'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO ACCUSE AN INNOCENT MAN!
A RANCH

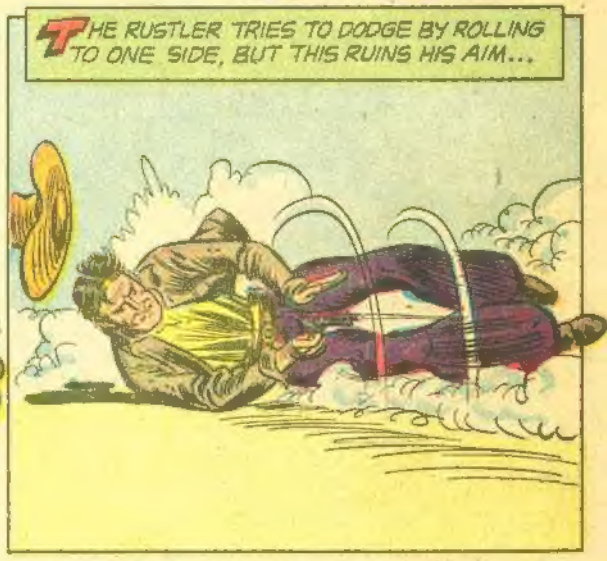
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, NELSON?
COME A LITTLE CLOSER--AND YOU'LL FIND OUT!

WE'RE ROUNDING UP RUSTLERS--AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME TO BE AMONG THE PRISONERS!
YOU'RE CALLING ME A RUSTLER?

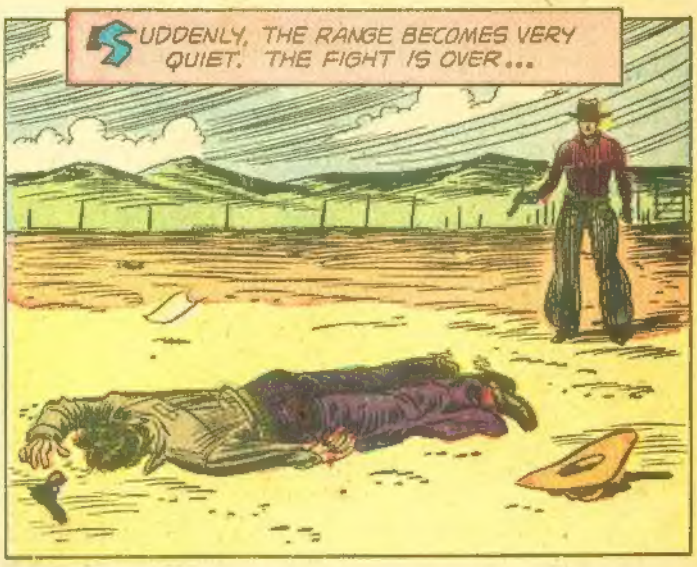
SURE I AM! THIS TIME I HAVE PROOF! PRICE TOLD US EVERYTHING!
WELL-- THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER TO THAT--


KNOWING HE CANNOT BEAT LARAMIE TO THE DRAW, ARLIDGE TRIES ONE LAST DESPERATE TRICK...
ZING!

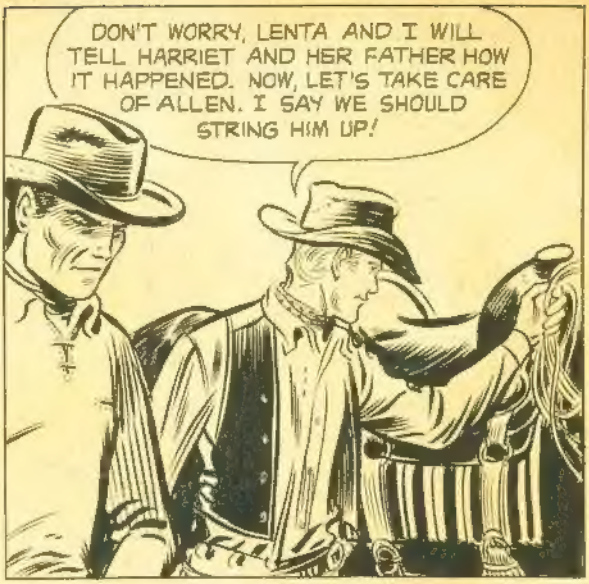
BUT THE IMPACT OF HITTING THE GROUND SPOILS ARLIDGE'S AIM, AND HIS SHOT GOES WILD.


THE RUSTLER TRIES TO DODGE BY ROLLING TO ONE SIDE, BUT THIS RUINS HIS AIM...

LARAMIE TAKES CAREFUL AIM AND SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER...
ZINNNG!
ZINNNG!


SUDDENLY, THE RANGE BECOMES VERY QUIET. THE FIGHT IS OVER...

I TRIED NOT TO KILL, BUT I HAD TO STOP HIM.
WE KNOW, LARAMIE ...YOU COULDN'T HELP IT!


DON'T WORRY, LENTA AND I WILL TELL HARRIET AND HER FATHER HOW IT HAPPENED. NOW, LET'S TAKE CARE OF ALLEN. I SAY WE SHOULD STRING HIM UP!

HOLD ON, MISTER. THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH LAWBREAKING AROUND HERE. ALLEN AND WHOEVER ELSE ARE BROUGHT IN SHOULD GET FAIR TRIALS.
BUT THIS SIDEWINDER ALLEN IS GUILTIER THAN ALL THE REST. HE'S THE BOSS!

YOU CAN'T DO IT! THE BEST WAY TO BRING LAW AND ORDER TO THE DISTRICT IS TO TAKE THEM BACK TO TOWN!
DO WHAT MR. STRICKLAND SAYS, LONESOME. REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND PRICE DOWN IN KANSAS!

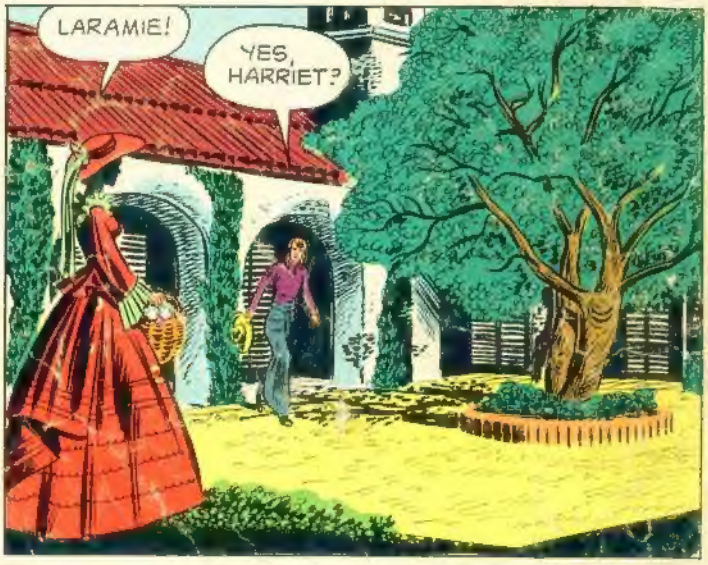
THANK YOU, MR. NELSON--THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR! RIGHT NOW I'M GOING TO OFFER YOU THE JOB OF AGENT FOR THE CATTLEMEN'S PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION IN THIS COUNTY. DO YOU ACCEPT?

I SURE DO, MR. STRICKLAND!
THERE! THAT OUGHT TO CONVINCE HARRIET THAT YOU WERE RIGHT!

WELL! IT LOOKS LIKE LARAMIE IS BOSS OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY, LET ALONE SPANISH PEAKS RANCH! STEP UP, BEADY! YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO A FAIR TRIAL!
HMPH!

AND THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, MR. LINDSAY. TRACKS CAUGHT SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GANG RUSTLING OVER ON SPANISH PEAKS!
I CAN'T SAY HOW PROUD WE ARE OF YOU, LARAMIE!

I HOPE YOU STAY WITH US AND RUN SPANISH PEAKS AS WELL AS YOU HAVE HANDLED THIS AFFAIR!
SURE-- I COULDN'T EVER LEAVE!


LARAMIE!
YES, HARRIET?

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I SAID! AND, LARAMIE... I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AGREE WITH FATHER-- YOU'RE THE BOSS OF SPANISH PEAKS, AND--AND...
AND WHAT, HARRIET?

...AND MY BOSS, TOO, IF YOU WISH!
WELL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, HARRIET, I'D SURE BE MIGHTY PROUD!